CGE™

WWW.CGENTERTAINMENT.COM

1 APRIL

$2.95 $4.75 CAN

www.crossgen.com

SOLUS™

Barbara Kesel George Pérez Rick Magyar Larry Molinar

Long ago, a plan was formed.
Conceived and guided by one being
who pretended to advise another, it was
succeeding, gaining momentum against the
growing danger it was intended to negate.
But then it was discovered...

Solus™ Vol. 1, Issue 1, APRIL 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CG Entertainment, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **CrossGen®**, **CrossGen Comics®**, **CrossGeneration®**, **CrossGeneration Comics®**, and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The **CG Entertainment logo™**, **Solus™**, and all prominent characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

THE GRAND PLAN I COLLAPSED IN ON ITSELF TODAY.

I HAVE NO ONE BUT MYSELF TO BLAME.

I SHOULD HAVE ***KNOWN*** THE OTHERS WOULD NOT TOLERATE SUCH AN ABERRATION.

A WILD SPIRIT, ***SHE*** TORE HERSELF FREE OF THE PASSIVE NIRVANA WE'D FORMED AROUND OURSELVES, CHALLENGING OUR DENIAL.

SHE WAS COMPELLED TO RETURN TO THE WORLDS BELOW. TO WATCH. TO ***STUDY.***

TO ***CREATE.***

WHY DIDN'T I ***SEE*** THIS COMING?

I THOUGHT I COULD PROTECT HER FROM DISCOVERY...

MY ERROR.

MY IGNORANCE MADE HER VULNERABLE TO THIS ATTACK.

BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW THEN WHAT I KNOW NOW.

WHAT I *FEEL* NOW.

I WAS THERE WHEN WE MADE THE DECISION TO STRIP HER MIND CLEAN, TO LEAVE HER NO MORE THOUGHT THAN A CHILD.

THE BITTER IRONY IS THAT OUR ACTIONS, NEWLY DISCOVERED BY OUR BRETHREN, HAVE CAUSED THEM TO LASH OUT WITH REGENERATED RAGE--TAPPING THE SAME EMOTIONS WE ONCE DISCARDED TO ACHIEVE TRANSITION.

WE SET BOUNDARIES TO HER UNIVERSE.

DEFINED HER PLAYGROUND.

BEFORE SETTING HER FREE INSIDE ITS BORDERS TO CREATE WHILE I WATCHED.

SPIED.

UNTIL MY OWN EYES WERE OPENED AND THE TERRIBLE THREAT THE FUTURE HELD WAS KNOWN TO ME.

THE WORLDS I HAVE LABORED SO LONG TO PROTECT FROM EXTINCTION ARE THE PRICE OF THEIR REDISCOVERED FEAR.

I HAVE TRIED TO PROTECT HER.

BUT SHE IS, AS SHE ALWAYS WAS --

-- *TOO* HEADSTRONG.

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT THE SAME FORCES THAT INSPIRED ***HER*** TO CREATE WOULD INFECT AND CHANGE ***ME,*** DISTRACTING ME FROM MY ROLE AS *MENTOR PROVOCATEUR* LONG ENOUGH TO COMPREHEND THE MAGNITUDE OF OUR GREATEST ERROR IN JUDGMENT.

SOLISANDRA!

I SHOULD HAVE ***KNOWN.***

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

THE SAME ETERNAL FIRE THAT COMPELLED HER ACTS OF CREATION NOW CONSUMES HER.

I MUST WATCH WITHOUT INTERFERENCE, FOR THERE IS NO WAY TO HALT HER EXECUTION WITHOUT TRIGGERING MY OWN.

IF SOLUSANDRA DIES, THE PLAN IS *THREATENED.*

IF WE *BOTH* DIE...

...ALL WORLDS ARE LOST.

I MUST GO ON WITHOUT HER HELP IF I AM TO CORRECT THE COURSE OF OUR EVOLUTION.

WE HAVE, IN OUR HUBRIS, FOLLOWED THE WRONG PATH.

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF TRANSITION WAS INCOMPLETE.

EXCISING PARTS OF OURSELVES TO ASCEND HAS LEFT US HOLLOW...

...UNCARING...

...DEAD WITHIN.

GODS WITHOUT MERCY OR PASSION.

I HAVE ONLY JUST RECOVERED ENOUGH OF MYSELF TO FEEL PITY THAT THIS DISCOVERY HAS COME TOO LATE TO SPARE SOLUSANDRA.

I DO NOT WISH TO LEAVE HER HERE.

I DO NOT WISH TO CARRY ON ALONE.

NEVERTHELESS, HER LOSS MEANS NOTHING IF HER WORK IS WASTED.

HER DEATH BUYS ME LITTLE TIME...

I MUST END THE JOINING AND RETURN TO THE TASK...

...IN ALL MY LESSER FORMS.

WH-WHERE?

WH -

WHO?

SO--

--SOLUS--

--ANDRA?

STRIKE AT ME AS YOJ WILL, VARLET BUT YOU'LL NEVER FELL STONEHEART THE MIGHTY!

YES, GAMESMASTER! I *DEMAND* A REVISION!

I CLEARLY NEGOTIATED PASSAGE FOR A TRANSFER TO QUADRANT *NINE, JURASSIC* SCENARIO--

I SHOULD BE RIDING A *DINOSAUR* NOW

NOT A *CAMEL!*

THIS WORLD

YOJ CALL THIS VIRTUAL REALITY?

I JACKED IN TO *ESCAPE* BUREAUCRATIC SCREWUPS!

I *KNOW* IT

AAARGH!

UNNNH

SOMETHING *SUN*

RAYS

HELIOS

BUT IT WASN'T LIKE THIS WHEN--

Welcome!

You have entered Scenario Space.™
Loading level one

STAY WITH ME, GAMERS-- THIS ONE'S TRICKY!

LEVEL ONE?

Welcome to Scenario Space,™
player unidentified!
the only place you want to be ™
i'm **Gameface,** your guide to the wonders of gamespace
Press INFO at any time for additiona scenario information!

4

You've joined in at an exciting time in addition to our fifty quadrants, twelve thousand avatar options, and more than two hundred scenario levels, you have the option of meld ng with a ***live conflict*** between Heliotrope's protector ***RADIANT,*** and one of gamespace s resident techno-dangers

Eyegear not respond ng Please sync your specs by pressing [redacted].

RADIANT!

RADIANT!

RADIANT!

RADIANT!

This conflict is the most recent in a continuing series of clashes between Radiant and **Zeuss,** a rogue programmer threatening to invade and corrupt gamespace, and you can experience it live!

BACK OFF, ZEUSS!

IS DOMINATING THIS GAME REALLY WORTH DESTROYING HELIOTROPE?

IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP YOU FROM SHUTTING ME DOWN, RADIANT, THEN THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES!

NOT THAT I HAVEN'T ENJOYED OUR SPARRING, BUT YOUR TIME IS OVER

As you know, **Scenario Space** is a thriving interactive adventure zone designed to utilize all forms of sensory input to provide hours of virtual excitement

STOP PLAYING THE HERO--

--YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER **OPPORTUNIST!**

LOOK AROUND--

--YOU'VE SPRAYED YOUR MARK JUST ABOUT **EVERYWHERE!**

RADIANT INC.'S A NATIONAL BRAND--AREN'T YOU **PROUD?**

YOU'RE SMART, RICH, POWERFUL, AND YOU WON'T EVEN SHOW ME YOUR FACE

THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH A MAN WILL TAKE FROM A WOMAN

STOP IT, ZEUSS! YOU'RE NOT HURTING ME! YOU'RE NOT EVEN BRUISING ME!

DOES HELIOTROPE HAVE TO PAY FOR YOUR OBSESSION WITH ME?

You can move freely within scenarios – as long as you remain connected, no real world phenomena will be allowed to distract you!

SO END IT! JUST CEDE CONTROL OF GAMESPACE TO ME--

YEAH, RIGHT. NEVER

IT S-- IT S A GAME?

Well

unnamed player

are you ready to step inside? Press ENTER to interact with live display

I m waiting

WHAT THE SHE'S NOT THERE

INFOE--I VE GOT A NON-COM IN PLAY TELL ME ABOUT HER

HER?

HER WHO?

OOPS! Anomaly!

Stand by

unnamed player

I'll continue your orientation after the internal anomaly has been identified and –

OH!

Disallow access by player character codename Radiant Disallow all override commands not branded Zeuss CONTINUE

DON'T MOVE! I'LL GET YOU TO SAFETY!

TAKE MY HAND!

WHAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THIS BLADE IS MAGNIFICENT ENOUGH YET YOU SAY THERE ARE SIX MORE WEAPONS?

I REMEMBER

WHAT ARE YOU

WHAT WAS--

RADIANT?

Attention, players! We have a very important update – Scenario Space™ is now under the sovereign control of **ZEUSS!** That's right – Radiant's nemesis is now your Lord and Master!

SYSTEM-- DELETE PERSONAL ENCRYPTION--

--I'VE GOT TO SEE THIS IN PERSON!

THE LADY *RADIANT!*

FINALLY!

SO GOOD TO SEE YOU UNMASKED!

There will be no interruption of play for all cooperative characters!

That's right – the game will go on exactly as before with a few small revisions.

Please feel free to resume play.

RADIANT? I'M SOL

SOL... SOLELY.

ANDRA.

I THINK

I CAN'T REMEMBER

ANDRA

THAT'S BEAUTIFUL

ANDRA RADIANT

LINDY!

LINDY!

LINDY?

ZEUSS IS UNLINKED AND *UNSHIELDED!*

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO TAKE HIM DOWN, LINDY!

I--IT'S *AWFUL*, INFOE. I'M... EMPTY

I--I WISH I WAS BACK IN THE GAME

NOW YOU KNOW YOU DON'T *REALLY*, LINDY

YOU *BEAT* THAT ADDICTION-- DO YOU *REALLY* WANT TO JACK BACK IN?

I *CAN'T!*

SHE *STOLE* IT, INFOE!

THE SIGIL POWER--IT'S *GONE*

JUST LIKE WHEN I GOT THE MARK--

SUDDENLY THERE

SUDDENLY GONE

THAT IS NOT THE RADIANT I KNOW

RADIANT'S GONE

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT JUST LINDY

I'VE GOT TO FIND HER--GET IT BACK!

ZEUSS HAS HACKED THROUGH, BUT I BUILT THIS GAME! I CAN STILL--!

DON'T

INFOE--?

I WON'T GET HOOKED--

IT'S NOT THAT

IT'S THE *ANOMALY* I'LL ELIMINATE IT AND THEN YOU CAN GO BACK TO HONING YOUR SKILLS AS RADIANT

TRUST ME

SHE'S TOAST

IT'S ME

ZEUSS, AT YOUR SERVICE THE *REAL* ME.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, PLAYING AGAINST YOU THROUGH THE LEVELS, I'VE COME TO KNOW YOU SO WELL, YET

IT'S STILL ASTONISHING TO KNOW YOU'RE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ARE *BRILLIANT.*

IT'S KISMET - WE WERE MEANT TO COMPETE, CLASH, AND NOW TO COME TOGETHER!

REALLY?

IT'S SO *NICE* OF YOU TO THINK SO, ZEUSS

ALL THESE *YEARS?*

AND I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY MEMORY OF *YESTERDAY*--

--BUT I KNOW I WASN'T *BORN* THERE!

--BORN THERE!

YEAH!

AND THE ARMORED WOMAN WAS TRYING TO STOP YOU

BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE ARE *PLAYING* THAT NO ONE'S RUNNING THIS WORLD

BUT WHO'S

SO *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO COMMANDEERED THE NETWORK THAT LINKS THEIR FANTASIES

INTRUDER!

WHICH WILL YOU BE? MY **PRISONER**--

--OR MY **LUNCH?**

YOUR CHOICE!

MY CHOICE?

REALLY?

GONE

Yipe!

DEAD?

HOW ABOUT NO?

NO!

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

AIEEE!

BUT WE CANNOT

DIE! Hee hee!

YEAH, TAKE THAT, YOU DEMON!

GET 'IM, ANDRA!

GO RADIANT!

RADIANT? WHAT ARE THEY PARALLELING? I'M NOT IN THE SYSTEM!

INFOE! WHERE ARE YOU, BOY?

DON'T EVER MAKE ME CHOOSE

Here's another **LIVE FEED UPDATE!**

Scenario: she's faced one danger and triumphed, but she's unarmored against a Level Ten Host!

Will this be the end of the valiant protector of Heliotrope the woman we now know as ***Andra Radiant?***

Transfer to our live conflict by pressing ENTER.

THE END OF ANDRA RADIANT?

OH, PLEASE!

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THIS TO STOP ME!

SOMEBODY'S GOTTA STOP YOU

NFOE!

YEAH, BETTER THAN *THIS*, PUNK!

Get this! Andra's fighting back! She's radiating power at immeasurable levels!

OHMI! THAT'S *ZEUSS!*

ANDRA RADIANT!

THE WAY YOU TREAT ME, WOMAN!

REALLY, ANDRA

AFTER ALL THE FUN WE'VE HAD

RESTRAINTS *OFF.*

Did I say she was unarmored?

Vulnerable?

Boy, was I wrong

Isn't she amazing?

This

is

very

very

interesting

HEY!

RADIANT WANNABE!

LISTEN TO ME!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIIME!

DON'T

MOVE

BUT

KLOK

WHO ARE YOU?

LINDY KARSTEN

I *WAS* RADIANT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE *YOU* ARE NOW

AND YOJ *CLEARLY* NEED MY HELP

YOUR HELP?

DON T LAUGH

I'M AN EXPERT-LEVEL GAME PROGRAMMER

I HELPED BUILD THIS SYSTEM WHEN I WAS--

NEVER MIND

SEE THAT BUILDING?

ZEUSS HAS HACKED THE GAMES *BRAIN*.

YOU'RE JUST BATTLING THE LIMBS

THIS BUILDING'S RADIANT INC'S WORLD HEAD-QUARTERS-

GAMESPACE EXISTS ACROSS THE GLOBAL NETWORK BUT THE GOVERNING SYSTEM AI IS HOUSED HERE

HELP ME GET INSIDE BEFORE--

BEFORE *WHAT?*

BEFORE MY OWN SECURITY LOCKS US OUT

TUNK

WE'RE IN

NOW WE'VE GOT TO CRASH THE GAME

IF THIS GAME IS SO DANGEROUS, WHY DIDN'T YOU SHUT IT DOWN BEFORE?

BECAUSE

BECAUSE I WAS BUSY PLAYING MY WAY THROUGH GAMESPACE

IT'S VERY ADDICTIVE

RADIANT WAS MY AVATAR CHARACTER UNTIL THE DAY I GOT THE SIGIL

THEN I COULD MAKE HER--ME--*REAL*

THE SIGIL'S NOT VERY COMPLICATED, REALLY I HACKED IT

IT FUNCTIONS AS A CONDUIT TO A MALLEABLE ENERGY SLASH-INFORMATION SOURCE. ALL IT TAKES IS IMAGINATION AND PRACTICE

THEN INFOE-

[illegible]

NOW REALIZED THE OTHERS WERE STILL *TRAPPED*

Gamers don't think [illegible] at all

SEDUCED BY THE POWER OF THEIR OWN MANIFESTATIONS, THEY'D FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE *REAL*

BINGO

NOW, LOOK, I DON'T KNOW *HOW* YOU TOOK MY POWER, BUT I NEED IT BACK. THIS IS NO JOB FOR AN AMATEUR!

WHO IS THE AMATEUR?

ZEUSS

INDULGE ME

*HERE I AM, DEEP INTO ENDGAME WITH **ONE** OF YOU, BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE JUST **WHO** IT IS I'M UP AGAINST!*

ONE OF YOU HAS BEEN MY LOYAL ANTAGONIST FOR THIRTY LEVELS!

I KNOW ONE OF YOU!

WHICH ONE IS IT?

WHO IS RADIANT?

WHO DO I KILL?

IS HE INSANE?

HE'D SO A WAYS WAS

I'VE BEEN TRACKING HIM *FOREVER*

TODAY WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE GOTTEN CLOSE ENOUGH TO

OH, *FRIGATE TORQUE!* SAFETIES ARE OFF--

--AND *EVERY* SCENARIOS TIED TO US!

TO --

YOU

ANDRA!

BE *VERY* CAREFUL!

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE NEURALLY LINKED TO EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE DOING IF YOU'RE HURT--

HURT?

HAHA HAHAHA HAHA!

ME?

AND *HOW* WOULD I KNOW WHAT CAN HURT YOU?

I DON'T *KNOW* YOU!

I JUST KNOW YOU *STOLE* MY POWER!

GIVE IT BACK!

YOU FIGHT LIKE A LEVEL ONE, AND *I* COULD GET HIM FROM HERE!

YOU'RE *PLAYING*, AND THIS IS *REAL*!

WE'VE GOT TO STOP THE GAME!

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

I'VE BEEN FACING WORSE THAN THIS SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN!

YOU WANT IT STOPPED?

FINE!

OH!

OH!

AAAAA!
WHERE ARE WE?
NO.
HUGH--?
RADIANT KILLED THE GAME
NO! MAKE IT COME BACK!
AIEEE!
RADIANT! YOU DID THIS!
STOPPED
HAPPY NOW?
FR GATE TORQUE
NO MORE ADDICTION THEY'RE FREE TO *LIVE* AGAIN
NO! WHAT THEY *NEEDED* WAS AN EXIT SCENARIO! THE SUDDEN TRANSITION BACK
GET HER!
GYAAH!
THEY'RE *ANGRY*
WHY THOSE UNGRATEFUL--
COMPLAIN *LATER!* LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
VERY WELL LET'S GO

WH- ?

--AT?

WHERE IN THE NAME OF GOOD TECH ARE WE?

FRIGATE TORCHIE

WHO ARE YOU?

ANDRA RADIANT

I THINK

NOTHING!

HOW CAN I HAVE SEEN *NOTHING?*

ONE OF MY AVATARS IS *DEAD*, AND I CAN NEITHER SEE NOR SENSE THE CAUSE?

AN ANOMALY IS AT WORK

I DO NOT KNOW WHO OR WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE

BUT I *WILL*

YOU WILL FIND IT FOR ME--

"--AND *DESTROY* IT!"

CGE™
www.cgentertainment.com

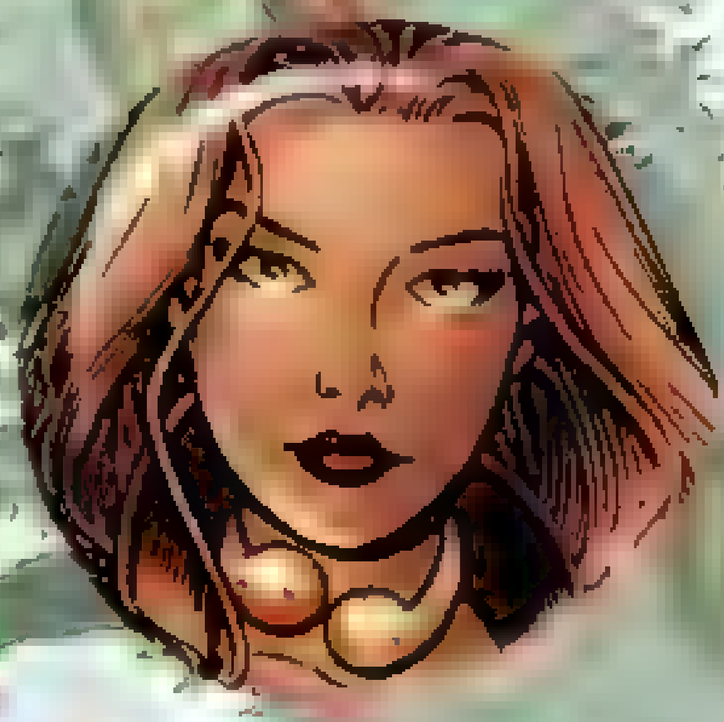
2
MAY

$2.95
$4.75 CAN

www.crossgen.com

SOLUS

Barbara Kesel
George Pérez
Rick Magyar
Larry Molinar



Her name is ANDRA RADIANT

...or that's what she thinks.

LINDY

She has great power, a stubborn character, and a missing memory. Once, as Solusandra, she held godlike power, but was pursued by others of her kind. Her power was scattered to many worlds, including the one on which she hid. Her sundered godhood made her appear dead to her fellows, including the being called Danik.

Andra knows only that she has to go to the Sigil-Bearers and take from each one a symbol, her symbol, and the portion of her missing memories held by each one.

One of these Sigil-Bearers, Lindy Karsten aka Radiant, comes from Helios, a world taken over by a game that Andra helped destroy. Escaping from the angry players who were suddenly returned to reality has brought Andra and Lindy to Andra's sanctuary world.

DANIK

In her attempts to understand what was destroying Helios, Andra killed a lesser form of Danik, alerting him to her existence. Still blind to her new form, Danik has, not realizing it is his old ally he pursues, set a deadly beast on her trail...

Solus™ Vol. 1, Issue 2, MAY 2003 FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®,** and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. The **CG Entertainment logo™, Solus™** and all prominent characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

BY MY TIRED EYES.

THE MOMENT I HAVE AWAITED FOR SO LONG

IS FINALLY COMING TO BE

SOON THE BURDEN WILL BE HALVED

SHARED

SOON.

"SO.

"YOUR NAME IS ANDRA RADIANT"

"Y-YES"

"AND YOU LIVE *HERE* SO. WHERE EXACTLY *ARE* WE?"

"CREATION EDEN

"...SOLUS-?"

"OKAY, SO IT'S GOT A LOT OF NAMES WE'LL GO WITH *SOLUS* FOR NOW

"I NOTICE SOLUS IS A LITTLE LIGHT ON THE NECESSITIES FOR *SURVIVAL*

"I DON'T SEE ANY SIGNS OF SHELTER, *FOOD*, ANY HINT OF TECH--"

"THERE'S NO NEED FOR THOSE DIVERSIONS, LINDY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM--YOU WON'T BE HERE FOR LONG I'LL SEND YOU HOME--"

"NO!

"OH, *NO*. YOU TOOK MY POWER AWAY! I AM NOT *LEAVING* YOUR SIDE UNTIL YOU FIND A WAY TO GIVE IT BACK!"

"HMMM. STAY THEN, IF YOU WISH, BUT I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT *YOUR* PETTY NEEDS AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE I AM INVOLVED IN A *VITAL* TASK

"I... I HAVE *TO*

"...HAVE TO

"I HAVE TO GET THE *ENERGY* FLOWING AGAIN. IT'S DY-NG!

"THEY HAVE TO *FIGHT*! WE *NEED*

"...THE *WORLDS* NEED

"*ENERGY BEGETS ENERGY*"

"WHAT?

"'ENERGY BEGETS...?'

"HEY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF BOGUS PHYSICS THEY TAUGHT IN *YOUR* SCHOOLS--"

"—BUT THAT STATEMENT IS JUST SO COMPLETELY *WRONG*"

YOU CAN'T *CREATE* ENERGY, JUST MOVE IT AROUND!

THE LAW OF CONSERVATION OF ENERGY, YOU KNOW—

—"ENERGY *CAN BE NEITHER CREATED NOR DESTROYED.*"

BUT THE UNIVERSAL ENERGIES WERE *FADING*

NOT FROM WHAT I COULD TELL. I NEVER RAN OUT OF THE STUFF TO WORK WITH

BECAUSE THE SIGIL-BEARERS *CREATE* ENERGY THROUGH THEIR *CONFLICT*

WHOA— BEARERS?

ZZS?

AS IN *MANY?*

AS IN MORE THAN JUST *ME?*

MANY, SO THE FIRST WOULD

YEAH? AND THE FIRST WOULD *WHAT?*

NO. THE *FIRST*

OKAY. THE FIRST. LET'S GO BACK TO THAT *ENERGY* QUESTION. ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU BELIEVE ENERGY CAN BE CREATED, NOT JUST TRANSFORMED?

BUT IT CAN'T JUST FADE AWAY

THE ONLY WAY THAT'D SEEM TO HAPPEN IS IF SOMEONE WAS SOMEHOW *HIDING* ENERGY FROM WHATEVER INSTRUMENTS OF MEASUREMENT YOU USE, BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY POSSIBLE, EITHER

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN?*

MY HEAD HURTS

MINE'S CLEAR IF YOU COULD JUST SOMEHOW *RETURN* MY POWER

BUT IT WAS *MINE?*

MINE

FINE! THEN *USE* IT!

ANDRA, YOU TOOK OUT *ZEUSS*— JUST WHAT *ARE* YOU?

I'M ANDRA RADIANT

THAT'S ALL I KNOW

ALL YOU **THINK** YOU KNOW. YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BATTLES BEFORE I WAS BORN, BUT YOU'RE *CLEARLY* YOUNGER THAN ME. YOUR MEMORY MIGHT NOT BE GONE, JUST *DORMANT*

AND WHAT ARE *THESE* THINGS? WHY IS MY SIGIL EVERYWHERE?

YOUR SIGIL?

I THOUGHT IT WAS— DON'T KNOW

BUT *BEFORE*

"WELL DONE."

YOU'VE FOUND THE SOURCE OF THE ANOMALY

NOW FETCH THE DISTURBANCE AND BRING IT TO ME

EVERYWHERE! NOT THAT MY CORPORATE PARTNERS WOULD OBJECT TO THE BRANDING WE *DID* TAKE MY LOGO *UNIVERSAL*

FRIGATE TORQUE

NO READOUT

BLINKING THING DOESN'T EVEN REGISTER AS THERE

JUST BEFORE I WAS TRANSPORTED TO *YOUR* WORLD

I TOUCHED ONE

TOUCHED? *HOW?* THERE WAS NO EFFECT WHEN I-

WAS THERE SOME SORT OF ACTIVATION?

-LIKE THIS

OHM

NO

THAT'S WHEN

NO!

W-I

NOT WITHOUT *ME!*

OW

ANDRA?

ANDRA!

OH, THIS IS *NOT* HAPPENING

YOU DID *NOT* LEAVE ME HERE

ALONE

KWHUMP

WHAT?!

THE HOUND I'VE LOST CONTACT?

IMPOSSIBLE!

"HOW COULD THIS FORCE BE STRONG ENOUGH TO BLIND *ME?*"

WHERE--

NO, NOT *THERE*

COME

--AM I?

AFTER SO LONG, YOU HAVE RETURNED

I *HAVE?*

NO

IT CAN'T BE. I'VE WAITED SO LONG

YOU ARE

DAMAGED?

ACCESS FAILURE

ACCESS FAILURE

NO. WE'RE JUST OUT OF TRANSMITTER RANGE

WAY OUT OF RANGE

THAT'S JUST GREAT

JUST GREAT

WHERE ARE YOU NOW, ANDRA *RADIANT?*

WRECKING SOMEBODY ELSE'S LIFE?

USING MY NAME

I HOPE THEY KICK YOUR BUTT AND TAKE YOUR POWER AWAY THE WAY YOU DID MINE

STRIKE THAT!
THEN I'D BE *MORE* STUCK!
YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE AN HQ SOMEWHERE HERE, RIGHT?
KLAKA KRAK
AAYAUGH!
FRIGATE TORQUE!
LISTEN UP! I MAY NOT BE PLAYING *RADIANT* ANYMORE--
--BUT I'M NOT DEFENSELESS
SOMEBODY THERE?
I'M ARMED!
AND I'M
HyHyHy!

M-SO VERY VERY DEAD

DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

SHOULD I?

YOU KNEW ME IN ANOTHER FORM

I KNEW YOU

BUT I DON'T REMEMBER YOU, OR THIS PLACE

WHAT WORLD IS THIS--

OH

QUIN

DO YOU REMEMBER ELYSIA, OR THE TREKS WE MADE TO THE WORLDS BELOW?

YOU ONCE MADE HEROES OF MEN, INSPIRING THEM BY YOUR SHINING EXAMPLE

I MYSELF STROVE TO BE WORTHY OF YOUR GIFTS

ONE OF WHICH I HAVE BEEN KEEPING FOR YOU MANY CENTURIES

I SAW ONCE THAT YOU WOULD HAVE NEED OF THE CIRCLET

NOW I SEE THE VOID WITHIN YOU, AND I KNOW WHY

PERHAPS ITS PROTECTIVE ENERGIES WILL STIMULATE YOUR LOST MEMORY

IF NAUGHT ELSE, ITS POWER WILL SHIELD YOU WHILE YOU SEEK YOUR MISSING WISDOM

THE CIRCLET

IT'S NOT JUST AN ORNAMENT?

IT'S

IT'S A WEAPON, ISN'T IT?

A WEAPON

AND THERE WERE SIX OTHERS

YES. IT'S ONE OF THE SEVEN WEAPONS OF *ALTWAAL*

ALTWAAL

I SHOULD KNOW THAT NAME

HE'S NO, HE'S NOT THE SIGIL BEARER HERE

THE ONE WITH MY MARK IS THE DEAD MAN I NEED TO GO TO HIM HE HAS

NOTHING FOR YOU THAT OVERBALANCES THE DANGER LEAVE MORDATH BE FOR NOW—HE IS PART OF SOME GAME BEING PLAYED BY ANOTHER POWERFUL FORCE

A *GAME* AGAIN?

NOT THE KIND YOU SO RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED SOME KIN OF YOURS, PERHAPS, OR SOMETHING DARKER AND GREATER, I CANNOT TELL

TREAD YOUR WAY WITH GREAT CARE LEST YOU CROSS THEIR CONFLICT

I WILL. I *DON'T* REMEMBER YOU, EXCEPT FOR THE MOMENT WHEN I GAVE YOU YOUR WEAPONS, BUT I REMEMBER TRUSTING YOU

BEING *PROUD* OF YOU.

THEN HEED MY WARNING.

WITH YOUR POWER AND MEMORY DIMINISHED, YOU ARE SINGULARLY VULNERABLE YOU MAY NOT YET BE STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE

OH, I *AM*. FAREWELL, AYDEN- DON'T WORRY

STUBBORN AS EVER, GIVER OF GIFTS

I HAD HOPED YOUR RETURN WOULD MEAN THE END OF MY LONG WAITING

BUT MY VIGILANCE MUST CONTNJE

LINDY?

WHAT IS THAT?

YOU'RE BACK!

WHAT *IS* IT? THIS IS *YOUR* WORLD DON'T *YOU* KNOW?

NO. I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE

GREAT

IT'S KEEPING QUIET SO FAR JUST PAC NG

WAITING IT'S LOOKING FOR *ME*

WHA I THOUGHT YOJ DIDN T

DON'T TELL ME YOU TWO *KNOW* EACH OTHER?

"NO BUT IT'S-- IT'S *FAMILIAR*"

YEOWKK!

ANDRA BE CAREFUL

OHMI— A LITTLE *TOO* FAMILIAR!

GET BACK!

LINDY, YOU SOUND SCARED!

DON'T BE

AFTER ALL—

—I'M NOT

THAT'S JUST SO COMFORTING

HEY!

THAT ENERGY TRANSFER TRICK YOU PULLED WITH ME--

HOW MUCH OF AN ERG LOAD CAN YOU HANDLE?

ENOUGH!

THEN DRAIN IT!

ANDRA, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

NO YOU'RE PLAYING WITH IT!

HA HA HA HA HA YES!

AND I'M HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME!

FRIGATE TORQUE

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GETS TO KEEP HER POWER

AND YOU'RE NUTS

YOU'RE SAFE, LINDY!

IT'S ME IT'S AFTER--

-SO I'LL JUST LEAD IT FAR AWAY!

OHM

ANDRA!

LINDY?

A LITTLE HELP HERE?

IT *CAN'T* FOLLOW YOU INTO THE GREENSPACE— SOMETHING REPELS IT!

YEOW!

NICE PUPPY ?

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

SAVING *YOU*

YOU GAVE IT MORE ENERGY! IT'S *MADE* OF ENERGY DON'T GIVE IT *MORE!*

DRAIN IT!

IF YOU WOULD JUST *LISTEN* TO ME I *AM* THE ONE WITH MORE EXPERIENCE

IT DOESN'T MATTER

IF WE WANT TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE OUTSIDE THIS ZONE, IT *DOES!*

BUT LOOK-- I'M RIGHT IT CAN'T ENTER THIS AREA

THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER

THE GROVE HAS EVERYTHING WE NEED

WE'RE SAFE HERE

ANDRA!

STOP! *STOP!*

WHY?

OH -

WSSSSH
WHUMP
UNNNNHH
ANDRA ?
FRIGATE TORQUE
FRIGATE!
TORQUE!
I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU STRANDED ME *AGAIN!*
WITH THAT *THING* TO KEEP ME COMPANY!
LUCKILY, *YOU* CAN'T COME ANY CLOSER CAN YOU?
"BUT THE FACT THAT YOU *CAN'T* MAKES *NO* SENSE!
"JUST WHAT *IS* IT ABOUT THIS GREENSPACE?
"*WHAT* THE BLINKING EYE COULD BE KEEPING YOU *OUT?*"

Storytellers

Barbara KESEL
Writer

George PEREZ
Penciler

Rick MAGYAR
Inker

Larry MOLINAR
Colorist

Dave LANPHEAR
Letterer

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

Publisher & CEO • Mark Alessi
Director of Conventions & Facilities • John Smith
Senior Vice President, Chief Creative Officer • Gina M. Villa
Vice President, Writing Development • Barbara Kesel
Director, Ancillary Publishing • Ian M. Feller
Director of Production Control • Charles Decker
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer • Michael A. Beattie
Controller • Brian Saltis
Director of Human Resources • Karla Barnett
Office Manager • Shirley Burdett
Senior Vice President, General Counsel • Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer • Jim Stiffelleather
Director of Information Technology • Courtland Whited
Internet Services Director • Gabe Mendoza
Senior Vice President, Product Development • Tony Panaccio
Director of Marketing & Communications • Bill Rosemann

Vice President, Sales • Chris Garr
Director of Sales, Book Trade • Robert Boyd
Director of Sales, Direct & Foreign Markets • James Breckbill
Vice President, Special Projects • Brandon Peterson
Vice President, Art Director • Bart Sears
Assistant Art Directors • Michael Atiyeh, Butch Guice, Dave Lanphear, Rick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith
Freelance Coordinator • Michelle Pugliese
Vice President, Production • Pam Davies
Production Supervisor, Advertising/Web • Sylvia Rein
Production Supervisor, Books • Janet Becktle
Production Designers • Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin
Production Assistant • Marisol Quintana

"George Pérez's art truly has never looked better."
— Comix View

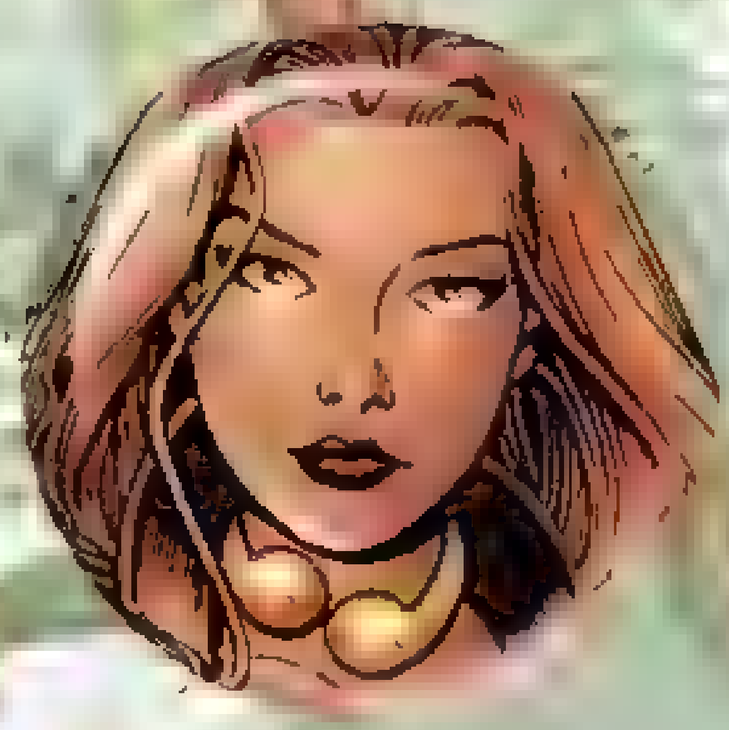
CGE™
WWW.CGENTERTAINMENT.COM

3 JUNE | $2.95 $4.75 CAN

www.crossgen.com

SOLUS™

Barbara Kesel
George Pérez
Rick Magyar
Larry Molinar



Her name is ANDRA RADIANT

...or that's what she thinks.

She has great power, a stubborn character, and a missing memory. Once, as Solusandra, she held godlike power, but was pursued by others of her kind. Her power was scattered to many worlds, including the one on which she hid. Her sundered godhood made her appear dead to her fellows, including the being called Danik.

Andra knows only that she has to go to the Sigil-Bearers and take from each one a symbol, her symbol, and the portion of her missing memories each holds.

One of these Sigil-Bearers, Lindy Karsten aka Radiant, comes from Helios, a world taken over by a game that Andra helped destroy. Escaping from the angry players who were suddenly returned to reality has brought Andra and Lindy to Andra's sanctuary world.

In her attempts to understand what was destroying Helios, Andra killed a lesser form of Danik, alerting him to her existence. Danik has, not realizing it is his old ally he pursues, set a deadly hound on her trail. On Quin, Andra receives a circlet from Altwaal, first-born of the First, before returning to the world now called Solus to battle the hound. In the confusion, Andra triggers a portal and disappears, leaving Lindy behind.

Solus™ Vol. 1, Issue 3, JUNE 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, L.L.C. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400. Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **CrossGen®**, **CrossGen Comics®**, **CrossGeneration®**, and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. The **CG Entertainment logo™**, **Solus™**, and all prominent characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

WITHELM, WHAT IF THE STORIES ARE TRUE?

THEY SAY HE READS THE MINDS OF MEN!

HIS WORDS CAUSED THE EGILSSONNA RES

BRATH MAC GAREN IS A BARBARIAN WARLORD NOTHING MORE

AND WE ARE BEING PAID GOOD GOLD FOR HIS HEAD

DON'T LET CAMPFIRE TALES DRAIN YOUR COURAGE ROLF

TALES!

THEY'RE *TRUE* I SAY!

AS TRUE AS THE STEINS OVERFLOWING WITH FRESH BARLEY ALE YOU EMPTIED WHILE HEARING THEM!

BUT *WILHELM!*

IS MERE GOLD WORTH THE RISK OF OUR LIVES IF THIS MAC GAREN IS TRULY BLESSED BY THE GODS?

DEATH!

THE STAG GOD IS A MYTH

THE TRUE GODS ARE NOT

WOTAN PLAYED NO PART IN THIS MAC GAREN'S SUPPOSED MAGICS!

BUT *WHAT?*

I'VE HEARD OF SUCH BEHEMOTHS

NO GODS AT WORK HERE WILHELM?

NO GODS JUST THE DOMNIANS COME TO CLAIM MORE LANDS FOR THEIR EMPEROR

"KEEP LOW WE'LL PASS THEM BY"

IF THE DOMNIANS COME CONQUERING THEY'LL FIND THE TEUTONS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR

HOLD

WILHELM THEY'RE

QUIET ROLF YOU MEWLING WORRYWART!

" WHAT MANNER OF BEING IS *THAT*?"

MEN CAL ME *ANDRA RADIANT*

YOU WILL TRAVEL NO FURTHER

GOOD HEARING

IT WASN T SPOKEN IT WAS

MINDTALK I VE HEARD OF ITS LIKE

MORE OF BRATH'S MAGICS?

THE GODS ARE *NOT* INVOLVED

IT'S A TRAP!

IT'S A *WARNING*

TURN AROUND AND LEAVE OFF YOUR MISSION *NOW*

LYING IMAGE OF BADWUHENNA OF THE BLADE YOU MAY BE, BUT MY COMPANY COWERS TO NO ONE--

" MORTAL OR GODDESS!"

YOUR CHOICE

~GODDESS IT IS!

YARRRHH!

YOU'RE LUCKY I ARRIVED WHEN I DID

GLRRAK!

--AND SENSED YOUR PLOT TO KI.. BRATH MAC GAREN!

GYAAARGH!

GHAH!

BRATH IS A SIGIL BEARER

HRRRK!

WEARER OF MY SIGN!

MINE!

GRNNNGH

WHICH MEANS *YOU* HAVE NO RIGHT TO THREATEN HIM!

NOT YOU, HILDE OF THE RHINE!

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY -?

BOOM

I KNOW EVERYTHING.

SOMETIMES

YOU -YOU'RE ALL JUST SUCH A TINY PART OF THE WHOLE!

YET YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR LIVES AS IF THEY *MATTER*

AND THEY DO

BUT THE BIGGER WAR DEMANDS SACRIFICES

HA!!

THIS IS THE PRICE FOR PRESUMING TO INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS!

YOU CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO KILL A SIGIL-BEARER

THAT'S MY RIGHT

YEARS AGO, BRATH MAC GAREN WAS CLAIMED BY THE STAG GOD.

HIS BODY STILL BEARS THE MARK OF THAT ENCOUNTER

THE GHOST STAG OF THE DREAM REALM LEADS HIM, ONCE AGAIN, TO THE PLACE FROM WHICH KNOWLEDGE COMES

BRATH MAC GAREN FOLLOWS, AS HE ALWAYS DOES

BUT THE MESSAGE IS MORE DIRE THIS TIME

IMAGES COALESCE BEFORE HIS HAUNTED EYES.

A BEAST TO DWARF LEGEND

THE DREAM STAG, HE NOTES, IS UNAFRAID OF THIS THREAT

. BUT AGONIZED WHEN ITS QUARRY IS REVEALED

A CHAOTIC, MALEVOLENT ESSENCE WHOSE PRESENCE SIGNALS DOOM FOR THE ENTIRE ENCAMPMENT

BUT THE GREATEST HORROR IS THE COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING GRANTED BY HIS SIGIL IT ALLOWS HIM NO ESCAPE FROM THE TRUTH

HE KNOWS HE IS THE CAUSE OF THIS INVASION.

HE CAN SEE THAT HIS WIFE AND CHILD

HIS ENTIRE CLAN

WILL BE ERADICATED IN THE CLASH BETWEEN THESE TWO FORCES

AND BRATH MAC GAREN HIMSELF...

WILL BE POWERLESS TO PREVENT IT

HORROR FOLLOWS HIM INTO AWARENESS

COMPREHENSION IS ALSO PRESENT

HE KNOWS WHAT MUST BE DONE

IF HE IS TO AVOID THE SACRIFICE OF HIS BELOVED WIFE

HE MUST LEAVE HER

AND BRYLLIN, HIS SON, IS HIS GUARANTEE THAT THE LINE MAC GAREN WILL CONTINUE

WILLINGLY OFFER HIMSELF UP TO THE GODS

EVEN WITHOUT HIM

SO DOES THE HEAD OF CLAN MAC GAREN

COME ON
I KNOW YOU
KNOW YOU'RE
RIGHT

GO

TEST THE
THEORY

DO IT

DO IT

DO IT

=WHEW=

I AM RIGHT

SO—*YOU* CAN'T CROSS INTO THIS AREA, WHICH MEANS *I* CAN'T STEP FOOT OUT OF IT, WHICH PRETTY MUCH CONFINES MY EXPLORATION OF SOLUS TO *MY* SIDE, WHICH HAS *NOTHING* ON IT !

OR I CAN STAND HERE AND TALK TO A GIANT PLASMA DOG

YEAH, THAT'S SANE

SO—YOU JUST STAY THERE AND DON'T PROVE ME WRONG, 'KAY?

NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING *ELSE* FOR YOU TO DO—NO CITY FOR YOU TO STOMP, NO CENTRAL AI FOR ME TO REPROGRAM FOR BETTER GRAPHICS—THIS WORLD HAS *ZERO* OPTIONS

IT'S NOTHING BUT AN UNREALIZED SCENARIO!

HONESTLY, I'D HAVE ENGINEERED SOMETHING *MUCH* MORE INVOLVED THAN THIS

MUCH!

PUH! SNORT

MY VERSION WOULDN'T DUPLICATE NAMES!

I CHOOSE THE NAME *RADIANT* AND THEN ANDRA SHOWS UP WITH THE SAME NAME?

REALLY POOR SCENARIO LOGIC, BUT THE TECH *IS* ONE STEP BEYOND

SO—WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS?

ANDRA HERSELF, MAYBE?

NOT THAT *SHE'D* KNOW WITH THAT CONVENIENTLY MISSING MEMORY

AND *THIS*—

THE EXIT PORTALS I *CAN'T USE* ALL HAVE *MY* SIGIL ON THEM

OR THE SIGIL I *THOUGHT* WAS MINE IT *DID* APPEAR ON ME WAY BACK

LONG BEFORE SHE SHOWED UP!

GRRR

WHAT'D I SAY?

WAIT--

--WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YEOW!

WAIT?

GO! GOOD RIDDANCE!

SHE DESERVES THAT FOR LEAVING ME HERE

ALL ALONE

GO BITE ANDRA OR SOMETHING

HAVE I WATCHED YOU BEFORE?

"IF SO, I'M SURE I LAUGHED AT THE SPECTACLE

"ELEPHANTS AS BATTLE TANKS

"THE QUAINT CLANKING OF PHYSICAL WEAPONS

"WARFARE AT ITS MOST BASIC NOISY, AND BRUTAL"

YALA WOULD LOVE THIS

IS YALA THE GOD YOU SERVE?

I SEE YOU ARE THE ONE

AND I SEE BY THAT MARK THAT YOU ARE BRATH MAC GAREN

OF COURSE NOT! SHE'S

SOMEONE I CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER

THE GODS GAVE ME THIS SIGN AND WITH IT, THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND WHY YOU MUST DO THIS

YOU HAVE COME TO DEMAND A SACRIFICE FROM ME

MY LIFE FOR MY PEOPLE

YOUR LIFE—?

IS YOURS.

COME. I WILL NOT FIGHT YOU.

TAKE IT

BUT--

I NEITHER FEAR NOR BEGRUDGE YOU THIS ACT, ANDRA

YOU *WANT* ME TO KILL YOU?

whhhhssssssst

NOT THAT I COULDN'T--

-BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE AT ALL

IT'S NOT YOUR LIFE I NEED

BUT *MINE*

WHAT?
CONTACT AGAIN?
THIS ANOMALY HAS THE POWER TO SHUT OUT MY SENSES *HOW?*
FIND IT AGAIN!
WHAT?
THIS ARGUMENT AGAIN?
SOLUSANDRA, IT'S *TIME*
YOU *HAVE* TO *CHOOSE!*
I DON'T SEE WHY
IF I *CAN* MASTER *MORE* THAN ONE OF THE DISCIPLINES, THAT'S *PROOF* I CAN THEREFORE I SHOULD BE *ALLOWED* TO EXERCISE MY FULL POTENTIAL
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'RE ALWAYS PREACHING?
YOUR *ABILITY* ISN'T AT ISSUE HERE SOLUSANDRA. IT'S YOUR ATTITUDE
YOUR POTENTIAL AS AN INDIVIDUAL MUST BE ALLIED TO OUR HARMONY AS A SOCIETY
IF YOU--
DON'T MAKE ME *CHOOSE*, CAPRICIA!
STOP TRYING TO FORCE ME TO FIT YOUR PREDETERMINED MOLD!
YOU WILL *NEVER* MAKE ME A DOCILE COW LIKE YOU!
YOU STUBBORN LITTLE BRAT
I CAN'T WORK WITH YOU
FIND ANOTHER MENTOR
I DON'T *NEED* ONE
I AM SOLUSANDRA, THE *ONE ALONE!*

IS THAT *ME*?

WHERE...?

YOU'RE IN URELAND GODDESS

BRATH-- *TELL* ME

YOU SAID YOU HAD *UNDERSTANDING*

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?

YOU. ARE THE *KEY*

WHAT YOU DID VIOLATED CUSTOM BUT MADE THE REALIZATION OF THE *TRUE* DANGER POSSIBLE

WHAT *IS* THE TRUE DANGER?

I CAN NO LONGER RECALL

IT'S AS THOUGH ALL COMPREHENSION HAS FADED WITH MY SIGIL

I AM TRULY SORRY TO HAVE FAILED YOU

I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP SEARCHING

FAREWELL, BRATH MAC GAREN

YOU HAVE *NOT* FAILED I AM *VERY* PROUD OF YOU

YOU WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOUR LIFE FOR THEM

YOU EMBODY THE IDEALS WE WERE HOPING TO INSPIRE BETTER THAN I DO

DO I?

I MERELY DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE

I THOUGHT MY *LIFE* WAS THE PRICE I'D HAVE TO PAY

"BUT WHAT I'VE LOST SEEMS SO MUCH MORE PRECIOUS"

ANDRA--!

YOU HAVE IT SCENTED?

GONE AGAIN?

"I MUST KNOW THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS ABERRATION--

--AND HOW IT CAN EVADE ME THIS WAY!

"--THERE YOU ARE!

YOU
YOJ
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW *QUIET* THIS PLACE IS!
ONCE YOU LEFT, THAT *MONSTER* TOOK OFF AND--
THE *QUIET!*
THERE'S *NOTHING* HERE!
HOW DO YOU LIVE HERE?

COME TO THINK OF IT, *WHERE* DO YOU LIVE?
HMMM

OVER THERE
WHAT *"OVER THERE"?*
THERE'S NO
OHH

N THE PRETTY LITTLE BUILDING THAT WASN'T THERE BEFORE OF COURSE!
REALLY? I'M SURE I *REMEMBER* IT
YEAH SO
MAYBE YOU NEED TO DO A LOT *MORE* REMEMBERING
WHY?
BECAUSE I'D LIKE YOU TO *REMEMBER* ME A DATA SYSTEM WITH A STARKWHITE INTERFACE.
AND *FOOD!* HOW ABOUT REMEMBERING SOME DINNER?
OR JUST GIVE ME MY SOUL BACK
I CAN'T DO THAT
I THINK YOU CAN
CAN'T
WON'T

Storytellers

Barbara
KESEL
Writer

George
PÉREZ
Penciler

Rick
MAGYAR
Inker

Larry
MOLINAR
Colorist

Dave
LANPHEAR
Letterer

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

CrossGen Entertainment, Inc.
CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC
President, Chief Executive Officer & Publisher • Mark Alessi
Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer • Joe Pruitt
Director of Conventions & Tradeshows • John Yodell
Director of Marketing & Communications • Bill Rosemann
Vice President, Special Projects • Brandon Peterson
Vice President, Sales • Chris Serr
Director of Sales, Book Trade • Robert Boyd
Director of Sales, Direct & Foreign Markets • Jamie Peebles
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer • Richard A. Bustillo
Controller • Edwin Sotillo
Director of Human Resources • Karla Barnett
Office Manager • Shirley Sanders
Senior Vice President, General Counsel • Jennifer Hernandez
Paralegal • Tammy Dobson
CrossGen Education, LLC
Vice President • Beth Widera
CrossGen Media, LLC; CrossGen Productions, LLC
Senior Vice President, Product Development • Tony Pasucci

MegaGen, LLC
Director • Beth Widera
CrossGen Technologies, LLC; CrossGen Interactive, LLC; Games on the Web, LLC
Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer • Jim Stiltwell
Director of Information Technology • Courtland Whited
Internet Services Manager • Gabe Mendoza
CrossGen Publishing, LLC; CrossGen Comics, LLC; Code 6 Comics, LLC
Senior Vice President, Chief Creative Officer • Gina M. Villa
Director, Auxiliary Publishing • Lee M. Fuller
Director of Production Control • Charles Decker
Vice President, Writing Development • Barbara Kesel
Vice President, Art Director • Kurt Sharp
Assistant Art Directors • Michael Adreck, Derek Coiro, Steve Longhenry, Nick Napier, Lauren Overton, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith
Production Coordinator • Michelle Pugliese
Vice President, Production • Pam Eklund
Production Supervisor, Advertising/Web • Sylvia Rivera
Production Supervisor, Books • Janet Bucklin
Production Designers • Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin
Production Assistants • Marisol Quintero & Ken Cunningham

"Grade: A" — *Comics Buyer's Guide*

CrossGen

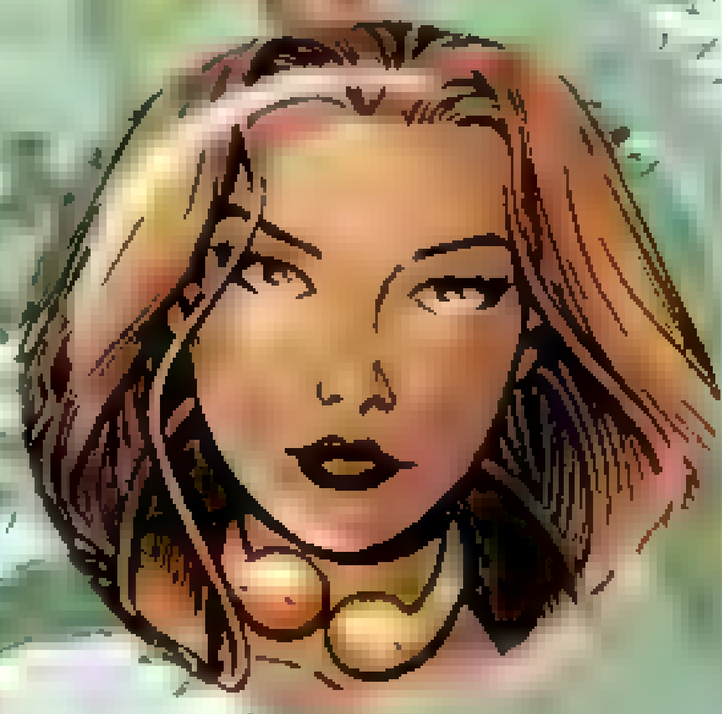
4 JULY

SOLUS

Barbara Kesel
George Pérez
Rick Magyar
Larry Molinar

USA $2.95 CAN $4.00

crossgen.com



Her name is

ANDRA RADIANT

...or that's what she thinks.

LINDY

She has great power, a stubborn character, and a missing memory. Once, as Solusandra, she held godlike power, but was pursued by others of her kind. Her power was scattered to many worlds, including the one on which she hid. Her sundered godhood made her appear dead to her fellows, including the being called Danik.

DANIK

Andra knows only that she has to go to the Sigil-Bearers and take from each one a symbol, her symbol, and the portion of her missing memories held by each one.

One of these Sigil-Bearers, Lindy Karsten, is determined to stay by Andra's side until her stolen sigil powers are returned to her.

BRATH

Danik, unaware that it is his old ally who is causing mayhem among the Sigil-Bearers, has created and set on her trail the Hound.

Andra has begun to collect her lost memories and other artifacts. Altwaal of the First handed over his Circlet to protect her, and Brath of Tarquina offered up his life, but lost only his sigil and power instead. Now Andra has returned to the world called Solus with her prizes, with the Hound one step behind...

Solus™ Vol. 1, Issue 4, JULY 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics® CrossGeneration®**, and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. **Solus™** and all prominent characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, L.L.C. PRINTED IN CANADA.

ANDRA!

ANDRA!

WAIT!

⇒HUFF⇐

DON'T -!

⇒HUFF⇐

⇒HUF!⇐

LINDY! CATCH YOUR BREATH--I'M LISTENING

UH, YEAH.

SORRY. SOME OF US HAVE LIMITATIONS

DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT ME, PLEASE--

I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU'RE GOING, JUST DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I'LL EMERGE, BUT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT

" COME ALONG "

OHM!

WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!

EXCELLENT CONSTRUCTION! IS THIS SCENARIO LITERAL OR VIRTUAL?

IT'S CHANGED

WE MUST BE IN AN ART MUSEUM OF SOME KIND AND IT'S *HUGE!*

VERY LIFELIKE

HE SHOULD BE HERE. THE PORTAL SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ME RIGHT TO HIM!

UH, YEAH, AND IF I ASK HOW YOU KNOW THAT, I'LL JUST GET A BLANK STARE AND AN "*I DON'T KNOW,*" RIGHT?

WHAT?

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT

THESE ARE ACTUALLY KIND OF HORRIBLE

UNLESS THEY'RE MEANT TO PROVOKE FEAR?

MAYBE IT'S NOT A MUSEUM BUT A FORBIDDEN ZONE, AND THESE ARE WARNING TOTEMS

YOU HAVE TOO MUCH IMAGINATION

IT'S *JUST* ANOTHER WORLD

THEY CALL IT *ABYELOS*

HEY! HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

CHANGE?

IT ALWAYS HAPPENS

I DON'T KNOW IF I CHANGE, OR THE WORLDS CHANGE ME~

--BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER, THE END RESULT--

-ALWAYS FITS PERFECTLY

FITS YOU OR THE WORLD?

ANDRA?

ANDRA!

I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU AFTER I FIND THE SIGIL BEARER!

THESE AREN'T ART

ANDRA!

WILL I CHANGE, TOO?

THEY'RE THE *PEOPLE* OF THIS WORLD

OHM!! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING--

COOL

AND THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!

OH, NO! THIS LOOKS LIKE--!

FRIGATE SORDUS!

ANDRA!

OH. WHAT NOW, LINDY?

OH.

AIEEEE!

ANDRA, LOOK! THESE AREN'T STATUES - THIS HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE - SEE?

HELP!

MY SYMBOL SHOULDN'T DO THAT

THIS ISN'T RIGHT--

WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER?

HELGAAAAA

HERE, LINDY--

-I'VE GOT YOU-

SNAP

OH

PART OF YOU

YOU'D NEVER SHUT UP ABOUT THIS IF YOU KNEW--

--SO IT'S A GOOD THING YOU NEVER NEED TO KNOW IT HAPPENED

LLLLP!

OHM!!

I'M BACK!

OKAY WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TRIGGERED THE TRANSFORMATION I DIDN'T NOTICE ANY SENSATION EXCEPT THE ITCH OF CRYSTALLIZATION

HOW DIFFICULT WAS IT FOR YOU TO INITIATE A REVERSAL?

HOW MANY DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DO AT A TIME?

ONCE YOU'VE RESTORED THEM ALL--

SHHHHSH!

I HEAR SOMETHING IT MAY BE THIS WORLD'S SIGIL-BEARER

I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE OTHER PEOPLE LATER

BUT

LATER

FATHER, I'M SORRY

I CAUSED ALL THIS AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT RIGHT!

YOU WARNED ME, YES, AND I DIDN'T LISTEN

YOU SAID THERE WOULD BE A PRICE TO PAY FOR SUCH POWER

AND THERE WAS

IT'S UNFORTUNATE WHEN WE ARE NOT THE ONES WHO HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE FOR OUR OWN FOOLISHNESS.

POOR MIKOS

YOU--YOU'RE NOT STILLED LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.

I'M NOT LIKE *ANY* OTHERS

MIKOS, YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING OF MINE

YOU MEAN *THIS*?

YES. IT'S TIME TO RELINQUISH YOUR SIGIL

WAIT!

WHAT?!

LOOK AT HIM!

CAN'T YOU *SEE* THE PAIN HE'S IN?

FRIGATE TORQUE--

BEFORE YOU STEAL AWAY THE ONLY THING HE'S GOT LEFT, HELP HIM FIX HIS MISTAKE!

UM...

NO.

NO?

I WON'T

HE CAUSED THE PROBLEM...

SO *HE* MUST MAKE IT RIGHT

I CAN WAIT A LITTLE WHILE

SHE *CAN* BE REASONABLE-- IT JUST DOESN'T COME NATURALLY

SO--WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

THE SIGIL GAVE ME THE POWER OF A GOD!

MY FATHER WARNED ME TO USE IT SECRETLY

SPARINGLY

BUT MY PRIDE BETRAYED ME

I COULD PERFORM *MIRACLES*, AND I WAS EAGER TO SHARE THIS WITH MY PEOPLE

SO I CREATED A MEETING PLACE WHERE THEY COULD COME TO EXPERIENCE MY GLORY

"WITH SUCH GREAT POWER AT MY DISPOSAL, WHAT I HADN'T ACCOUNTED FOR WAS MY *OWN* LACK OF STRENGTH

"THE MORE FEATS I DID, THE MORE WERE DEMANDED OF ME

"SOON, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DID, IT WAS NEVER ENOUGH

"THEY JUST KEPT *COMING*

"--UNTIL I HAD TO MAKE IT ALL *STOP!*

"I PANICKED, AND THEN -"

"--THEN THEY ALL--

"--STOPPED

"PERMANENTLY"

TURNED TO SALT, BY THE LOOKS OF IT

IT IS MY SHAME TO BE THE LAST MAN ALIVE ON ABYELOS.

THERE IS *NOTHING* I CAN DO TO ATONE FOR THIS TERRIBLE ACT

MIKOS, THIS SELF LOATHING IS WASTING TIME

I WAS CHOSEN WRONGLY I AM NOT STRONG ENOUGH FOR THIS POWER--

WHAT?!

DON'T YOU *DARE* SAY THAT!

YOU WERE *NOT* CHOSEN WRONGLY!

THESE PEOPLE AREN'T DEAD, JUST TRANSFORMED, AND YOU *DO* HAVE THE POWER TO RESTORE THEM!

THEN *SHOW* HIM HOW TO DO IT, BECAUSE THAT'S *RAIN* COMING

YES.

SO YOU HAVEN'T MUCH TIME TO WASTE *TALKING*, MIKOS!

YOUR *COMPASSION* IS UNDERWHELMING

I AM BUILDING WARRIORS AGAINST AN ENEMY THAT KNOWS NO COMPASSION

THEY ARE COMING AS QUICKLY AS THE STORM

MIKOS, DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH BIOCELLULAR MANIPULATION?

FIXING THIS WILL REQUIRE ANALYSIS OF THEIR CURRENT MOLECULAR CONFIGURATION IN RELATION TO YOUR BASELINE GENETIC--

LINDY--

SHHH

NO HELPING

I NEED TO KNOW IF *HE* CAN SOLVE THIS

I WILL ONLY SUPPORT THE STRONG

PROVE TO ME YOU ARE ONE OF THEM!

YOU *HAVE* THE STRENGTH, MIKOS, OR YOUR SOUL WOULD NOT HAVE CALLED TO ME!

YOU HAVE THE BALANCE OF THIS DAY TO FIGURE IT OUT

IF NOT, I REMOVE YOUR SIGIL, ENDING YOUR OWN IMMUNITY TO THE CRYSTALLIZATION EFFECT.

EVERYONE WILL MELT AWAY WHEN THE RAINS COME IF I CANNOT FIND A SOLUTION

I DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE BEYOND THEIR END

YOUR CHALLENGE IS JUST

THANKS FOR GIVING ME MY VOICE BACK

COULD YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WEIRD TINGLE IN MY ARM?

YOUR *ARM? REALLY?* WHICH ONE?

THIS ONE~

IT'S KIND OF ITCHY

MIKOS SEEMS TO BE WORKING *VERY* HARD!

MAKING THAT KID STRUGGLE *SO* HARD WHEN WE COULD SOLVE IT SO FAST IS JUST *CRUEL!*

WAR IS CRUEL

ANDRA, THAT'S THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE MENTIONED A WAR

WHAT WAR?

I DON'T KNOW

WOULD YOU *STOP* THAT? YOU AND YOUR HALF-ERASED MEMORY ARE--

SHHHH!

MIKOS LOOKS LIKE HE MIGHT BE CLOSE TO A SOLUTION!

POOR MIKOS.

HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE AN INFOE TO HELP HIM

I MISS INFOE

WHO'S INFOE?

MY FRIEND AND MENTOR HE WAS A CUTE LITTLE ALIEN CREATURE--

MENTOR?

WOULD THEY ALL HAVE A MENTOR?

WE COULD ASK--

SHHHH!

DON'T MOVE!

MIKOS, YOU WRETCHED LITTLE WHINER. WHAT *HAVE* YOU DONE NOW?

I *WONDERED* WHEN YOU'D SHOW UP NEMASES

YOU COULDN'T KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE WITHOUT ME, *COULD* YOU?

IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE THE CONSTANT *WORRY* OF YOU IF *ONLY* YOU COULD SOLVE YOUR *OWN* PROBLEMS!

NEMASES, THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT I'VE MADE A BIG MISTAKE. TRUE, BUT WITH WHAT I LEARNED FROM THOSE TWO, THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE IT RIGHT

WHAT TWO? THERE ARE OTHERS HERE? EVERY ONE I SAW WAS CRYSTALLIZED

THEY CAL. EACH OTHER ANDRA AND LINDY ONE HAS GREAT POWER, THE OTHER WEARS A STRANGE ALIEN ARMOR

SOMEHOW, THEY WEREN'T AFFECTED WHEN I STILLED THE OTHERS

NOT AFFECTED -?

AND NEMASES THEY'VE BEEN *WATCHING* ME

I SEE

PITY A *BRIGHT* STUDENT WOULD HAVE CALLED ME N RIGHT AWAY

BUT I CAN'T EXPECT YOU TO OPERATE AS THOUGH YOU HAVE A *FUNCTIONING INTELLECT!*

CONTINJE YOUR POINTLESS INVESTIGATION, MIKOS~

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS

THAT BOY WILL BE THE DEATH OF ME

WHY SHE INSISTED ON AFFIXING A SIGIL TO *THAT* ONE !... NEVER UNDERSTAND

THERE'S NO ONE HERE HE'S HALLUCINATING

LOOK AGAIN

GYAAAGH!

WAAAAAUGH!!

THAT'LL KEEP HIM OCCUPIED UNTIL WE'RE FINISHED HERE.

STRANGE

HE SEEMED FAMILIAR, BUT I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW ANYONE THAT ANNOYING

YES, LINDY- EXCEPT MAYBE YOU!

THAT *IS* WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO SAY, ISN'T IT?

THIS IS NO USE

I CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENED, BUT GAIN NO SENSE OF HOW TO COUNTERACT THE PROCESS!

I'LL NEVER FINISH IN TIME!

NO, YOU *CAN'T* HELP HIM

THE PRICE OF ACCOMPANYING ME, LINDY, IS BEING FORCED TO SEE THINGS FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

YOUR HEART IS YOUR GREATEST WEAKNESS HELPING HIM IS ACTUALLY NO HELP AT ALL

IF MIKOS CANNOT SUMMON THE POWER OF WILL WE NEED, HE MUST BE ABANDONED TO HIS FATE

DON'T DO THAT ANY MORE I'LL STAY OUT OF IT, BUT WOULD YOU *REALLY* LET HIM *DIE?*

WE CHOSE AS WELL AS WE COULD, BUT THERE IS NO *TIME* TO CODDLE THE WEAK

IT'S A BIOLOGICAL TRUTH - NOT ALL ORGANSMS SURVIVE THEIR MATURATION

WE *WILL* LOSE SOME, LINDY THAT'S WHY HE HAD TO MAKE SURE THERE WERE ENOUGH--

"THERE ARE A THOUSAND DANGERS WAITING TO THREATEN EVEN THE STRONGEST"

WHAT AM I OVERLOOKING, TOOKEY?

THE SOLUTION'S THERE, I KNOW IT

THE STORM'S NEARLY HERE, TOO

I DON'T WANT TO LET EVERYONE DOWN

IT'S NOT FAIR THAT EVERYONE DIES FOR MY CRIME!

SOON YOU'LL ALL BE WASHED AWAY BY THE RAIN

WATER

SPLIK

NOT THE DISSOLUTION, BUT THE CONNECTIVE PROPERTIES!

IF I ALTER THE SURFACE TENSION--

-USE THE RAIN--

THAT LL WORK OR HE COULD--

LINDY

SHUTTING UP

-BUT CHANGE THE REACTION!

YOU MUST BE SO PROUD.

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO GAVE US OUR SIGILS TO BEGIN WITH, RIGHT?

HE'S NOT DONE YET. I'LL BE PROUD THEN

WHAT ?

THAT'S NOT A RESULT OF MY STRIKE--

"--WHAT NEW TROUBLE IS THIS?"

ANDRA, YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY

OHMI!

I THOUGHT I SENSED SOMETHING

THIS SHOULD BE FUN

KEEP AT IT, MIKOS--

--I'LL HOLD THIS BEAST AT BAY!

COME ON--

KEEP UP!

YES!

IT'S WORKING!

IT'S WORKING!

OHM!

AAAH!
WHAT JUST--?
RAIN?
WHAT IN THE HEAVENS ?
OOOH
THIS STORM CAME IN FROM NOWHERE!
DADDY, LOOK!
I DID IT!
I DID IT!
I HEARD THAT
IT'S TIME, MIKOS--
YES
TAKE IT

YOU HAVE CREATED MANY THINGS, SOLUSANDRA--

--BUT I AM NOT ONE OF THEM!

SOLUS -

ANDRA?

YOU WERE RIGHT HE DID FIGURE IT OUT

BUT THAT CREATURE'S STILL UP THERE

IF *YOU* CAN'T FIGHT IT, JUST POWER ME UP AGAIN AND I'LL~

NO, LINDY, IT'S TIME TO LEAVE

LEAVE?

BUT -?

OH, YEAH

THANK YOU!

WELL DONE, MIKOS~ WE MUST LEAVE YOU NOW

AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE BIG GLOWING DOG HE'LL PROBABLY BE FOLLOWING US HOME

I HOPE

THE MENTOR I SHUNTED AWAY WILL HELP PROD IT ALONG

HUH?

THE *WHO* WILL *WHAT*?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER

NOT HOLDING MY BREATH!

MIKOS!

HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO RESTORE THEM WITHOUT ME?

YOU'RE NOT *CONSPIRING* WITH THOSE MYSTERY WOMEN?

NO, NEMASES

MIKOS YOUR SIGIL!

GO - *GO!*

YES, IT'S GONE! *HOW?*

NEMASES~ *RUN!*

EH?

MIKOS, WHY ARE YOU LEAVING NEMASES TO BATTLE THAT CREATURE ALONE?

THE GODDESS RETURNED FOR MY SIGIL, FATHER~

I'M POWERLESS AGAIN

BUT THAT BEAST WILL DESTROY ABYELOS!

THEY *SAID* IT WOULD LEAVE AFTER THEM

EVERY OTHER WORD THEY SAID WAS TRUE

IF NEMASES SURVIVES HIS ENCOUNTER WITH IT, HE'LL BE *FREE*~

--BECAUSE HE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY OVER *ME* ANY MORE~

~I CAN SOLVE MY OWN PROBLEMS.

Storytellers

Barbara KESEL
Writer

George PEREZ
Penciler

Rick MAGYAR
Inker

Larry MOLINAR
Colorist

Dave LANPHEAR
Letterer

Special thanks to
Chuck Dixon

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

President, Chief Executive Officer & Publisher • Mark Alessi
Senior Vice President, Chief Creative Officer • Gina M. Villa
Vice President, Writing Development • Barbara Kesel
Director, Ancillary Publishing • Ian M. Feller
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer • Michael A. Beattie
Senior Vice President, General Counsel • Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President, Product Development • Tony Panaccio
Director of Marketing & Communications • Bill Rosemann
Vice President, Sales • Chris Carr
Director of Sales, Direct & Foreign Markets • James Breitbeil

Vice President, Special Projects • Brandon Peterson
Vice President, Art Director • Bart Sears
Assistant Art Directors • Michael Atiyeh, Butch Guice, Dave Lanphear, Rick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith
Freelance Coordinator • Michelle Pugliese
Vice President, Production • Pam Davies
Production Supervisor, Advertising/Web • Sylvia Bretz
Production Supervisor, Books • Janet Bechtle
Production Designers • Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin
Production Assistants • Marisol Quintana & Ron Domingue

CrossGen

5 AUG

SOLUS™

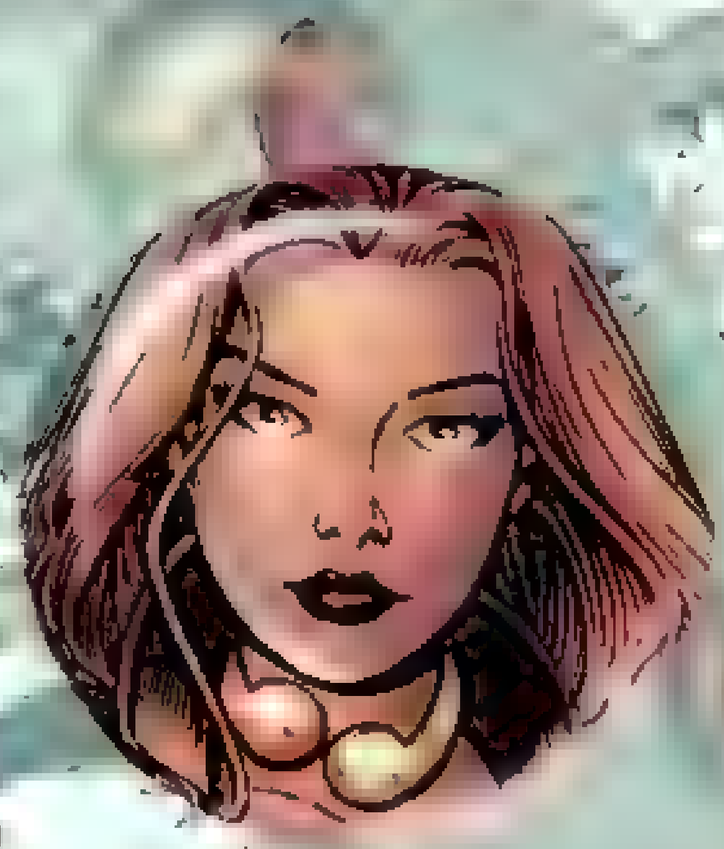
9 00155 57607 4
00511
USA $2.95 CAN $4.00
crossgen.com

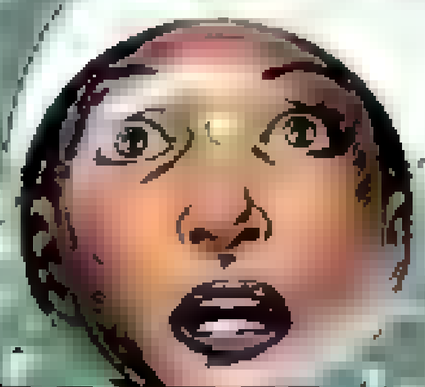
Barbara Kesel
Paul Ryan
Brad Vancata
Eric Guerrero

Her name is

ANDRA RADIANT

...or that's what she thinks.





LINDY

She has great power, a stubborn character, and a missing memory. Once, as Solusandra, she held godlike power, but was pursued by others of her kind. Her power was scattered to many worlds, including the one on which she hid. Her sundered godhood made her appear dead to her fellows, including the being called Danik.

DANIK

Andra knows only that she has to go to the Sigil-Bearers and take from each one a symbol, her symbol, and the portion of her missing memories held by each one.

One of these Sigil-Bearers, Lindy Karsten, is determined to stay by Andra's side until her stolen sigil powers are returned to her.

HOUND

Danik, unaware that it is his old ally who is causing mayhem among the Sigil-Bearers, has created and set on her trail the Hound.

Andra has begun to collect her lost memories and other artifacts. Altwaal of the First handed over his Circlet to protect her, and Brath of Tarquina offered up his life, but lost only his sigil and power instead. Mikos of Abyelos lost a sigil, but gained important insight. Now Andra has returned to the world called Solus with her prizes, with the Hound one step behind...

Solus™ Vol 1, Issue 5. AUGUST 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics LLC. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **CrossGen®**, **CrossGen Comics®**, **CrossGeneration®**, and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. **Solus™** and all prominent characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

ANDRA, WHAT D YOU CALL THIS THING?

THAT'S ALTWAAL'S CIRCLET

OOOH ROUND HOLE IN THE MIDDLE--

CIRCLET NOW THERE'S AN ORIGINAL LABEL

THIS GUY'S NOT A SCENARIO DESIGNER I HOPE?

HE'S A GOD, LINDY

YEAH OF *COURSE*

AND YOU WOULD KNOW

GOD, HUH? HIS WORLD MUST BE JUST *HOPPING* WITH GREAT ENCOUNTERS

FIGHT ALTWAAL'S MONSTER! SEE ALTWAAL'S THRONE!

GENERIC CITY!

ALTHOUGH THIS *DOES* LOOK *KIND* OF COOL IF IT'S A WEAPON. THOUGH, I DON'T SEE ANY OBVIOUS APPLICATIONS WHAT DOES IT *DO*?

IT PROTECTS

HERE--

--I'LL SHOW YOU!

YAAAAUGH!

HMM!

GUESS IT WORKS.

WHA HA! I DIDN'T INITIATE ANY TRANSFORMATION - DID YOU, OR DOES THE CIRCLET HAVE SOME KIND OF RUDIMENTARY A I ?

I DIDN'T DO A THING

EXCEPT *ATTACK* YOU.

THANKS

I THINK IT LIKES ME!

AND YOU SAY THERE ARE *SIX MORE*?

EACH ONE IS DIFFERENT, BUT I DID MAKE SEVEN WEAPONS FOR ALTWAAL

THAT'S MINE

SIX MORE

SO WHY ARE WE WASTING TIME HERE?

LET'S GO GET THEM!

THEN MAYBE I COULD HELP YOU

UM OKAY

WE COULD DO THAT

EASIER SA'D THAN DONE, RIGHT? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE A CODEX TELLING YOU WHICH OF THESE EXIT PORTALS GOES WHERE

THERE IS NO PORTAL TO ELYSIA, LINDY

IT'S EASY TO FIND!

YOU JUST IMAGINE YOURSELF AT THE *CENTER* OF THINGS

WHOA!

AND YOU *TAKE* THE PERSON WHOSE IDEA IT WAS *WITH* YOU!

ANDRA—!

GANNISH, WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO PYREM?

HE'S SUFFERING-

IF THIS WERE MY HOUSE, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED AT A BEATING YOU'D HAVE BEEN TORN TO ATOMS FOR INFLICTING SUCH TORTURE ON AN EMPATH!

THEN I SHOULD BE PLEASED TO FIND *YOU* HIDING IN HOUSE DEXTER?

I CAME HERE TO BE *WITH* PYREM, GANNISH. NOT TO WATCH HIM ENDURE PAIN CAUSED BY YOU!

WHAT DID YOU *DO*?

THE WORST OF ALL CRUELTIES, INGRA--

I SHOWED HIM THE *TRUTH*.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, INGRA -

-IT'S TIME WE ALL KNEW THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US.

BEFORE *US*?

LEAVE US!

NO WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING SOMEONE-

CREATOR, YET SHE WILL DESTROY US ALL!

DESTROY?

PYREM, WHAT IS THIS VISION? WHAT DO YOU *SEE*?

I THINK HE MEANS ME

WHOA

YES

WHO IS SHE?

I'VE SEEN HER

YOU! YOU'RE NOT THE INTENDED! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH ONE OF MY GIFTS?

YOUR--?

FRIGATE TORQUE THIS PLACE

THIS CAN'T BE REAL?

IT'S AS REAL AS THOUGHTS AND TANGIBLE AS REALITY

WELCOME TO ELYSIA, HOME OF THE FIRST

YOU WERE FRIGHTENED OF *THIS*?

SHE'S MORE THAN SHE SEEMS LOVE

YA.A

BUT PYREM NAMED HER OUR DESTROYER!

ELYSIA

THIS PLACE WAS THE CRADLE

BUT I CAME HERE FOR ALTWAAL'S WEAPONS

YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOURS WAS BORROWED DID YOU?

BORROWED?

SINCE ALTWAAL ISN'T HERE AND HE IS THE MOST POWERFUL OF YOU ALL, I ASSUME *HE* MUST HAVE LEFT HIS GAUNTLET IN YOUR CARE!

STAY BACK!

YOU KNOW ALTWAAL?

SHE'S LYING!
GANNISH, LET ME GO!
SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH, YALA
-I KNOW
I DOUBT YOU COULD HAVE DEFEATED HIM TO GET IT.
STOP!
YOU WILL NOT LAY A HAND ON PYREM!
I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
I DON'T REALLY THINK YOU HAVE ANY SAY IN WHAT I DO OR DON'T DO
INGRA!
SHE'S NOT USED TO BEING OVERPOWERED, IS SHE?
NOR AM I--
BY HIS EYES !
YOU !
AND YOU
TAKE THE GAUNTLET, BRIGHT LADY
IF YOU HAVE NEED OF IT, IT'S YOURS
OH! I REMEMBER YOU! YOU'RE THE UNDERSTANDING ONE!
PYREM, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR WITS?
YOU'VE HANDED HER A WEAPON?
He must HAVE A REASON.

THERE IS NO REASON GOOD ENOUGH!

ANDRA!

IT'S OKAY, LINDY

IT'S JUST HER NATURE TO BE THIS PASSIONATE!

I RECOGNIZE HER NOW--SHE'S THE *ANGRY* ONE

GHLRK!

THERE'S SO MUCH POWER HERE, AND THEY JUST FLING IT AROUND LIKE THERE'S AN INFINITE SUPPLY!

WHAT IF THERE IS? WHAT IF--?

NO! DON'T HURT HER!

WHY NOT?

GLRK!

SHE WAS READY TO *KILL* ME TO PROTECT YOU

NO ONE THREATENS *ME!*

I *TOLD* YOU NOT TO HURT HER!

DON'T TELL ME WHAT I CAN OR CAN'T DO!

SHE'S DEFEATED INGRA?

GANNSH, I HAVE TO FIGHT HER--!

"BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE DOES!"

ANDRA?

IF YOU'RE HURT

WHAT HAPPENS TO--

--ME?

KRAKOOM!

LINDY!

IF SHE'S BROKEN—

GET OFF OF ME!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE HIT LINDY.

SHE WASN'T EVEN IN THE FIGHT!

HOW DARE YOU!

AFTER ALL, I MADE YOU!

DON'T MAKE ME BREAK MY TOYS!

TOYS

NOW! WHILE SHE'S CONCENTRATING! ATTACK!

TOYS?

HOW DARE SHE CLAIM US AS HERS!

UNNH ?

UNNNGH

UW

OHMI LOOK AT THAT

I SHOULD BE *DEAD*

UNLESS THIS *PLACE* IS AFFECTING ME?

ALL THAT ENERGY FLOATING AROUND COULD IT REACTIVATE MY MISSING SIGIL?

THEY MANIPULATE THE ENERGY *WITHOUT* ONE

WITHOUT A *COMPLETE* ONE

COULD IT?

NAH

I COULDN'T BE *THAT* LUCKY

I'M LUCKIER THAN *THESE* GUYS, THOUGH

WYTURE!

ENSON?

YOU'RE FRIGHTENED?

WHAT IS IT, ENSON?

LOOK THROUGH ME

" SHE IS A MYSTERY"

" LOOK INTO HER EYES.

". AND SEE THE ECHO OF OURS— THE SIGNATURE OF WE WHO ARE ABOVE AND APART FROM THE FIRST

"WE SHOULD *KNOW* HER, AND YET

ANDRA ?

LINDY!

COME

HELP

YOU SURVIVED! THAT'S GREAT!

UM ... YEAH ..I GUESS...

INTRUDERS

I'M NOT FEELING TOO GOOD, ACTUALLY

HERE TAKE THIS

HURRY

ANOMALY

WOW THAT'S MUCH BETTER

ANDRA ?

YES?

BEFORE YOU *SMITE* THEM, OR WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO

HOW ABOUT IF WE JUST LEAVE THIS PLACE INSTEAD?

NOT UNTIL I'M *DONE*

OR DONE FOR

MYSTERY

DESTROYER

OUTRAGE

Storytellers

Barbara
KESEL
Writer

Paul
RYAN
Guest Penciler

Brad
VANCATA
Guest Inker

Eric
GUERRERO
Guest Colorist

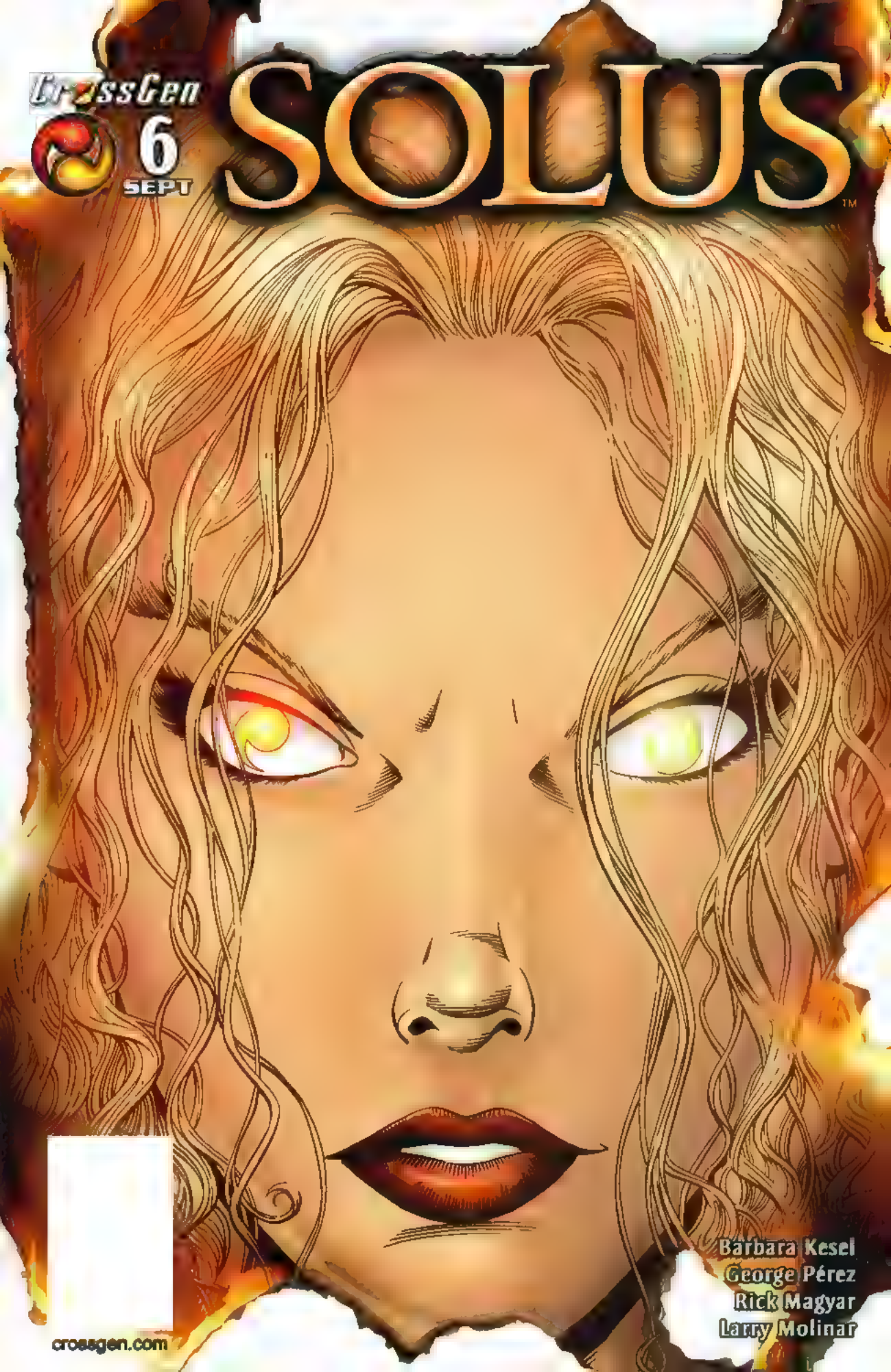
with special thanks to Laura Villari

Dave
LANPHEAR
Letterer

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

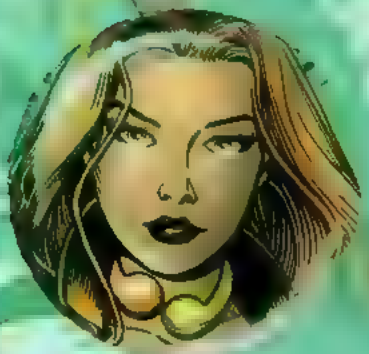
President Chief Executive Officer & Publisher • Mark Alessi
Senior Vice President Chief Creative Officer : Gina M. Villa
Vice President Writing Development : Barbara Kesel
Director Ancillary Publishing : Ian M. Feller
Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer • Michael A. Beattie
Controller : Brian Saltis
Senior Vice President General Counsel : Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President Product Development • Tony Panaccio
Director of Marketing & Communications • Bill Rosemann
Vice President Sales • Chris Carr
Director of Sales Direct & Foreign Markets : Jaimee Breitbeil

Vice President Special Projects : Brandon Peterson
Vice President Art Director : Bart Sears
Assistant Art Directors : Michael Atiyeh, Butch Guice, Dave Lanphear, Rick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith
Freelance Coordinator : Michelle Pugliese
Vice President Production : Pam Davies
Production Supervisor Advertising/Web : Sylvia Rietz
Production Supervisor Books : Janet Bechtle
Production Designers : Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin
Production Assistants : Marisol Quintana & Ron Dominguez

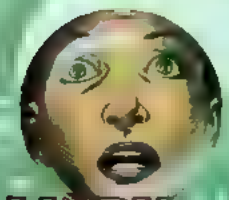

CrossGen
6
SEPT
SOLUS
Barbara Kesel
George Pérez
Rick Magyar
Larry Molinar
crossgen.com

Her name is

ANDRA RADIANT



...or that's what she thinks.



LINDY

She has great power, a stubborn character, and a missing memory. Once, as Solusandra, she held godlike power, but was pursued by others of her kind. Her power was scattered to many worlds, including the one on which she hid. Her sundered godhood made her appear dead to her fellows, including the being called Danik.

DANIK

Andra knows only that she has to go to the Sigil-Bearers and take from each one a symbol, her symbol, and the portion of her missing memories held by each one.

One of these Sigil-Bearers, Lindy Karsten, is determined to stay by Andra's side until her stolen sigil powers are returned to her.

PYREM

Danik, unaware that it is his old ally who is causing mayhem among the Sigil-Bearers, has created and set on her trail the Hound.

Andra has begun to collect her lost memories and other artifacts. Altwaal of the First handed over his Circlet to protect her, which prompted Lindy to suggest that they collect the remaining six weapons of Altwaal. This takes them to Elysia, home of the First, where Andra takes the Gauntlet from Pyrem and Lindy has a strange cellular reaction to the energies present in Elysia...

Solus™ Vol. 1, Issue 6, SEPTEMBER 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®,** and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. **Solus™** and all prominent characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

ANDRA, THIS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ONE OF MY BETTER IDEAS
YOU'RE SUCH A WORRIER, LINDY!
I THINK COMING TO ELYSIA TO COLLECT ALTWAA.'S WEAPONS WAS A SPLENDID IDEA!
NO, YOU'RE TOO BUSY WORSHIPPING
ANDRA, I'M SICK OR SOME THING~
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE
UH OH
SHHHH
YEAH
THE LOCALS WERE THRILLED BY OUR APPEARANCE
FRIGATE TORQUE ANDRA~
WE'VE GOT ENOUGH WEAPONS NOW
THE CIRCLET, THE GAUNTLET, AND YOU~
ARE YOU LISTENING?
LET ME CONCENTRATE
YOU DO THAT
I'LL JUST DIE A HORRIBLE DEATH WHILE YOU THINK, OKAY?

UNNNNGH
I CAN'T LOOK
PLEASE LET THIS WORK
OR I'M DEAD
NOT THAT THAT WOULD FEEL WORSE
UNNNH

WHOA
THIS
~IT'S LIKE WHEN I GOT THE SIGIL~
~THAT FIRST FLARE OF ACTIVATION~
EXCEPT ~IT'S *DIFFERENT*
TOO *LOUD*
AND IT'S *NOT* THE GAUNTLET DOING THIS TO ME
~IT'S *ME*
LE VE O F.
ID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

DID YOU?
STOP.
HOW DARE YOU!

DO YOU REALIZE WHO YOU'RE SHOUTING COMMANDS TO?
I CREATED YOU, ALTWAAL, LEADER OF GODS!
YOU--
YOU'RE TESTING THEM
YES
WE MUST PUSH THEM, TEST THEM
WE CAN'T CREATE THE FIRE--WE MUST STOKE IT IN THE SPIRIT
FOR ONLY THE STRONGEST WILL SURVIVE THE ONSLAUGHT
THEY MUST BE STRONG
THEY MUST BE WILLFUL
OR ALL WE HAVE CREATED WILL CEASE TO BE
WNNNNNGH!

GRAAWH!
OH, LINDY
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?
OH.
I ASSUMED YOU'D DISCOVER THAT THE CHANGE TO YOU WAS BOTH GENETIC AND PERMANENT BUT I ALSO ASSUMED-

YOU'D KNOW WHEN TO STOP
"SOMEBODY OVERINDULGED
"THE RESULTS SHOULD BE FUN!"
GRRAWWWHH

BUT IT'S JUST A MORTAL!
WHY CAN IT MANIPULATE THE ENERGIES LIKE US?
NOT LIKE US!
ITS ACTIONS THREATEN ELYSIA!
HOW DARE IT PRESUME TO DO SO!
BROTHERS, IT MATTERS LITTLE HOW IT CAME TO BE
"IF WE DO NOT SURVIVE ITS RAMPAGE!"
GNNNGH!
GO PLAY, LITTLE TOYS!
AS TESTS GO, THIS ONE'S A FINAL

"THE TRICK HERE IS TO WORK TOGETHER
"BEING FROM THE MORE SELFISH SIDE OF ELYSIA, YOU'RE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO POOLING YOUR POWER AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY
"IF YOU WERE TO COMBINE YOUR STRENGTHS, YOU MIGHT STAND A CHANCE."
BUT WILL YOU FIGURE THIS OUT?
NOPE!
"YOU'LL JUST KEEP FLYING SOLO
AGAINST A GROWING THREAT"

KEEP IT UP, MONSTER--
--I'M ALWAYS STRONGER WHEN OTHERS ARE HURTING!
GYNNNFH!
COURAGE, EMPHER!
KILL IT!
THE FIRST WILL NOT FALL TO THIS CREATURE!
HA HA! MHARRLIT ISN'T THIS FUN?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY
FUN?
ARE YOU MAD?
"I'M NOT
"--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE LINDY IS PLENTY ANGRY!
"STRANGELY ENOUGH--

"...I STILL LIKE HER THAT WAY."
GO CINDY GO!
SHOW THEM WHO'S POWERFUL!
GNNHH

THIS IS DISTURBING
TO SEE A SIGIL BEARER GAIN ACCESS TO ELYSIA'S STORE OF PURE ENERGY?
NO, TO HAVE A BEING OF OUR POWER GOADING HER ON
SHE HAS TO BE SOMEONE WE KNOW OR KNEW
EVEN THOUGH HER RESONANT SIGNATURE IS INCOMPLETE
LINDY! YOU HIT ME!
LOOK AT ME WHEN I CHASTISE YOU!
STOP IT NOW!
POWER DOWN RIGHT NOW OR YOU'LL FACE ME!
KWHUMP

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE?
WHAT MORE CAN THAT WOMAN DO TO US?
THIS CREATURE ISN'T HERS--
--IT HUNTS HER
YOU CAN FOLLOW ME EVEN HERE?
OKAY, DOG--
"BRING IT ON!"

GWWNNNNGH!
NOOOO!
DON'T YOU DARE HURT HER BEFORE I GET MY SIGIL BACK!

FOREST FOR THE TREES, LINDY
YOU DON'T NEED A SIGIL--
YOU STUPID SCARY PLASMA PET!
THIS TIME--
WHAT YOU NEED IS A TIME OUT
--IT'S MY TURN--
--TO SCARE YOU!

FUN'S DONE
TIME TO CUT YOU OFF
"ONCE YOU CAN'T ACCESS THE UNIVERSAL ENERGIES ANYMORE
"--THE MADNESS OF OVERINDULGENCE WILL FADE"
GIVE IT BACK!
AND YOU'LL BE BACK TO NORMA IN NO TIME!
NOT THAT THE NORMAL YOU IS ANY REAL MPROVEMENT
YOU TOOK IT
THE FIRST CAN'T LEARN IF YOU FIGHT THEIR BATTLES, JINDY
FIGHT WHAT?
NO MATTER HOW AMUSING IT MIGHT BE TO WATCH YOU TRY
BETTER?
LET'S GO
ANDRA?
WHAT JUST ?

"OH, NOTHING JUST A LITTLE DISPLAY OF POTENTIAL SUPERIORITY"
GATHER YOUR WITS--WE'RE LEAVING
NOW? BUT
THE FIRST WILL BE FINE.
BUT--?
THE HOUND WILL EVENTUALLY FOLLOW US BACK TO SOLUS.
BUT
NO MORE BUTS
WE'VE GAINED A WEAPON FOR YOU, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED, AND NOW YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL
SO IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON!
NORMAL, HUH?
OKAY
JUST ONE THING
"WHAT'S THAT?"
"I BORROWED SOMETHING I HAVE TO GIVE IT BACK"

"I HATE NOT FIXING MY MISTAKES."
"WASTE OF TIME. YOU'LL JUST MAKE MORE."
BESIDES, CLEANING UP THE DAMAGE WILL STRENGTHEN THEM -
-IF THEY SURVIVE THE HOUND
IF?
IT'S THEIR CHOICE
CHOICE?
HOW 'BOUT IF I CHOOSE TO STAY AND PLAY WITH THE POWER HERE?
LINDY, NOW THAT YOU'VE MET THE FIRST--
"-ARE THEY REALLY THE KIND OF PEOPLE YOU'D WANT TO KNOW?"
EH?

"LET'S LEAVE THEM TO THE HOUND AND MOVE ON TO OUR NEXT ADVENTURE!"
THIS CREATURE'S FAILURE TO BE RECEPTIVE TO *OUR* COMMAND IS UNACCEPTABLE
AFTER WE'VE ELIMINATED THIS PROBLEM WE *ALL* OF US NEED TO COME TOGETHER TO EXPLAIN.
YES, WE DO.
HOME AGAIN!
LOOK AT THEM
THEY'RE STILL AT IT. THIS COULD GO ON FOR *CENTURIES*
OR MINUTES, IF THEY FIGHT THE HOUND AS SLOPPILY AS THEY DID WITH US
SLOPPY?
DOES IT MATTER? DIDN'T WE LEAVE A PILE OF BODIES BEHIND US?
DEAD PEOPLE DON'T CARE HOW THEY *FOUGHT!*
AFTER A... YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED!

Storytellers

Barbara
KESEL
Co-Plot & Script

George
PEREZ
Co-Plot & Penciler

Rick
MAGYAR
Inker

Larry
MOLINAR
Colorist

Dave
LANPHEAR
Letterer

President, Chief Executive Officer & Publisher • Mark Alessi
Senior Vice President, Chief Creative Officer • Gina M. Villa
Vice President, Writing Development • Barbara Kesel
Director, Ancillary Publishing • Ian M. Feller
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer • Michael A. Beattie
Controller • Brian Soltis
Senior Vice President, General Counsel • Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President, Product Development • Tony Panacchia
Director of Marketing & Communications • Bill Rosemann
Vice President, Sales • Chris Carr
Director of Sales, Direct & Foreign Markets • James Breitbeil

Vice President, Special Projects • Brandon Peterson
Vice President, Art Director • Bart Sears
Assistant Art Directors • Michael Atiyeh, Butch Guice, Dave Lanphear, Rick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith
Freelance Coordinator • Michelle Pugliese
Vice President, Production • Pam Davies
Production Supervisor, Advertising/Web • Sylvia Bretz
Production Supervisor, Books • Janet Bechtle
Production Designers • Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin
Production Assistants • Marisol Quintana & Ron Dominguez

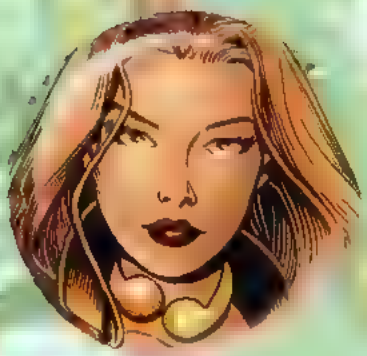
CrossGen

7
NOV

SOLUS™

Barbara Kesel
George Pérez
Rick Magyar
Larry Molinar

00711
8 00155 57607 4
USA $2.95 CAN $4.25
crossgen.com



Her name is

ANDRA RADIANT

...or that's what she thinks.

LINDY

She has great power, a stubborn character, and a missing memory. Once, as Solusandra, she held godlike power, but was pursued by others of her kind. Her power was scattered to many worlds, including the one on which she hid. Her sundered godhood made her appear dead to her fellows, including the being called Danik.

Andra knows only that she has to go to the Sigil-Bearers and take from each one a symbol, her symbol, and the portion of her missing memories held by each one.

DANIK

Danik, unaware that it is his old ally who is causing mayhem among the Sigil-Bearers, has created and set on Andra's trail the Hound.

THE HOUND

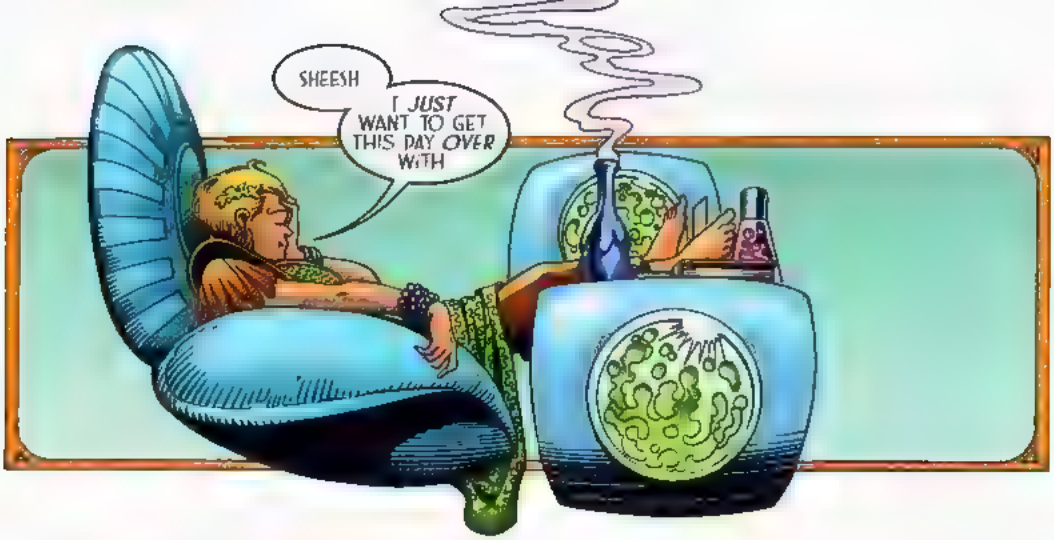
One of the Sigil-Bearers, Lindy Karsten, was determined to stay by Andra's side until her stolen sigil powers were returned to her. After a destructive return to empowerment on Elysia, Lindy has returned to the world called Solus with Andra, a new weapon, and a load of guilt, leaving devastation, bodies, and enemies in their wake.

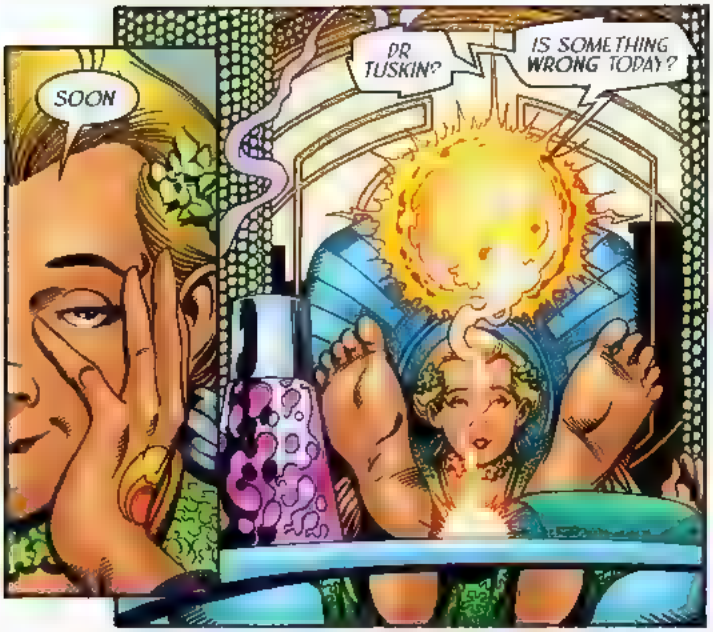
Andra has begun to collect her lost memories and other artifacts, now strangely certain that the time she has left to gather them is running out. ...

Solus™ Vol. 1 Issue 7 NOVEMBER 2003 FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics LLC Office of publication 4023 Tampa Road Suite 2400 Oldsmar Florida 34677 **CrossGen®**. **CrossGen Comics®**. **CrossGeneration®**. and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC **Solus™** and all prominent characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC ALL RIGHTS RESERVED The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics. LLC PRINTED IN CANADA.

THE FUTURE COALESCES, FORMING THE PATH OF GREATEST PROBABILITY...

OBVIOUS TO THE INNER EYE
MY VISION SHOWS
THE ANSWER
WHICH IS NO
BUT ?
WE HAVEN'T ASKED YOU ?
YOU CAME IN FOR A MARRIAGE BLESSING
CAN'T DO IT
BRAD · YOU'D CHEAT ON HER WITHIN SIX MONTHS YOU'RE DELUDING YOURSELF THAT IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY
JANET YOU CAN'T CONSIDER A PERMANENT BOND WITHOUT OFFERING UP COMPLETE DISCLOSURE ABOUT THAT INCIDENT ON ST RAPHAEL'S BEACH
BUT !
WHAT ?
YOU DON'T LOVE ME?
THAT WASN'T A BUSINESS TRIP, WAS IT?
THANK YOU, KELLRA!
YOU'VE SAVED US FROM A LIFETIME OF PAIN!
YEAH YEAH
SAVE YOUR BREATH--I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY
LEAVING NOW
THANK YOU!
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK
PAY THE WOMAN AT THE COUNTER

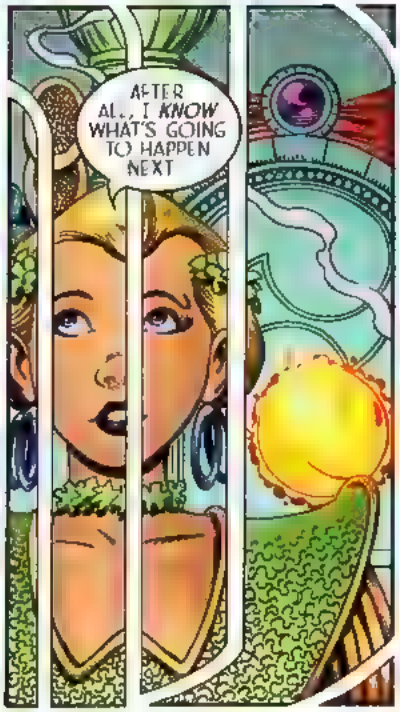

SHEESH
I JUST WANT TO GET THIS DAY OVER WITH


SOON
DR TUSKIN?
IS SOMETHING WRONG TODAY?

THAT'S THE THIRD SET OF CLIENTS TO LEAVE AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAME IN
THEY SEEM SATISFIED WITH YOUR PREDICTIONS, BUT -?

T'S ME

I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE WASTING MY TIME ON THE SHOW OF IT ALL TODAY, POLLA


AFTER ALL, I KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT

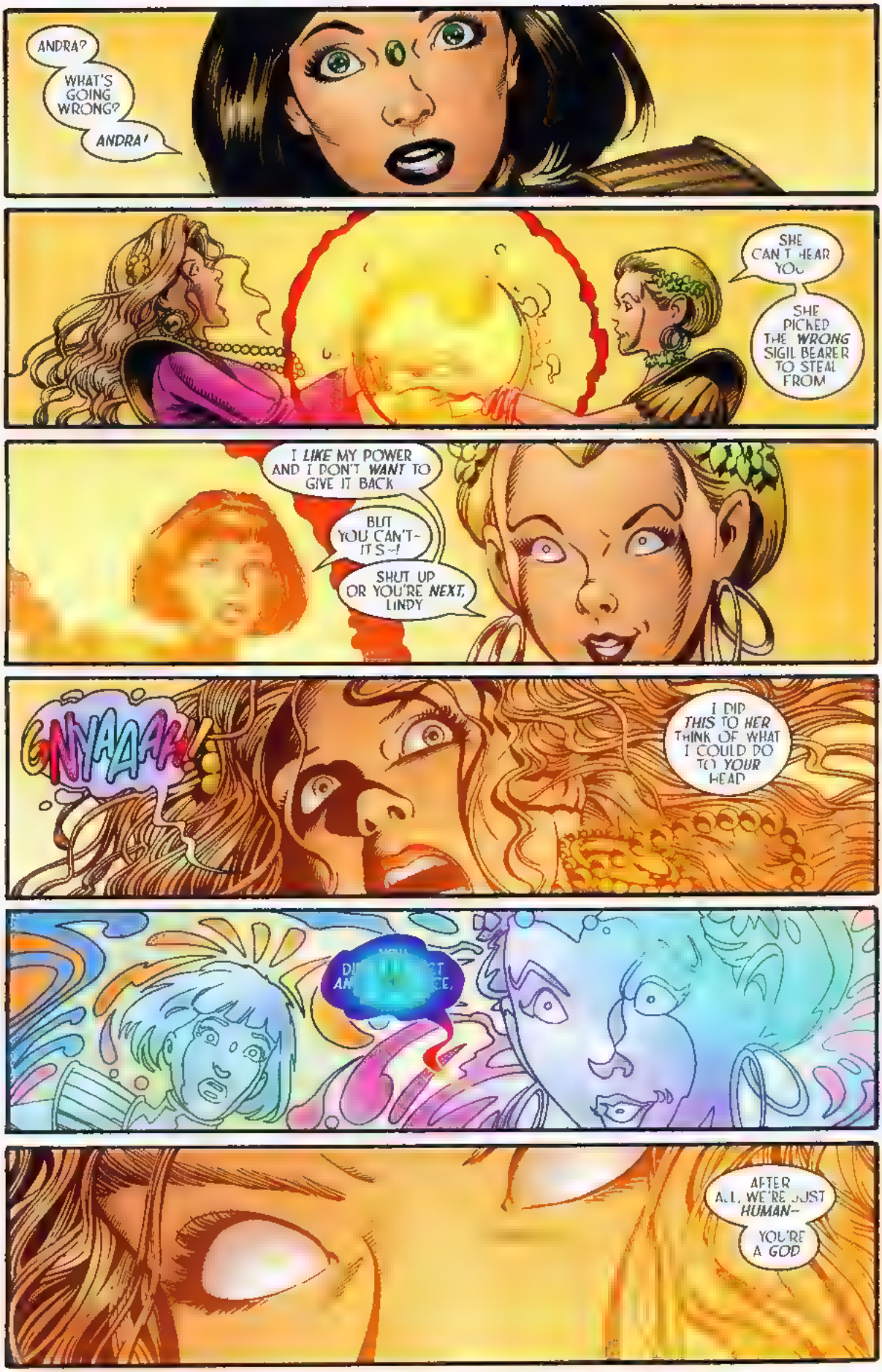
SHE'S COMING BACK
-SIGH-
SEND IN MY NEXT

FINALLY!
I'VE BEEN SO ANXIOUS TO SEE YOU, DR TUSKIN!
KELLRA
-SIGH-
WHY HAVE YOU COME TO ME TODAY?
WE ARE EXPERIENCING A LITTLE DISCIPLINE PROBLEM MY BOY CREED~
TAKE THAT HAT OFF! YOU'RE INSIDE!
YOU SEE? DO YOU SEE? HE NEEDS COUNSELING!
YES, I SEE
HMMM THE PROBLEM IS PHYSICAL, NOT MENTAL LITTLE CREED HERE HAS A VITAMIN DEFICIENCY THE CLERK WILL HAVE SUPPLEMENTS WAITING AS YOU LEAVE THANK YOU FOR COMING IN GOODBYE
CAN YOU HEAR ME IN YOUR HEAD?
DON'T WORRY, CREED~ I'LL GET HER OFF YOUR BACK
HMMM HE MUST ALSO BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE HIS OWN IDENTITY WITHOUT CORRECTION
THE MUSIC OF DJ JESSEE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL AND CONTEMPLATION OF THESE HARMONIES WOULD BE BEST DONE WITHOUT SUPERVISION
BIT OF THE SMOTHERING TYPE, ISN'T SHE CREED?
WORK WITH ME ON THIS, KIDDO~
THAT DISCHORDANT GARBAGE IS HELPFUL?
YES NDEED
IT HAS TO DO WITH THE MEDITATIVE PROPERTIES OF THE CHORD ARRANGEMENTS
YOU GET TO LISTEN TO YOUR MUSIC, SHE GIVES YOU SOME SPACE, YOU LET HER THINK IT'S THE KELP PILLS, YOU BOTH END UP HAPPIER
YOU'LL SEE

OH!
WHAT?
WHAT HAS HE DONE?
NOT HIM
HER
YOU WERE EXPECTING ME?
GOOD
THAT MAKES THIS EASY

EXCUSE ME!
OUR SESSION IS NOT YET OVER
DO YOU MIND?
MIND?
I NEVER MIND
OH, YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO RANKLE ANDRA
SHE NEEDS THE DOCTOR
IT'S SORT OF AN EMERGENCY
SORRY TO INTERRUPT
BUT ?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST WAIT OUTSIDE UNTIL WE'RE DONE?
THANKS I KNEW YOU'D UNDERSTAND
SHE'LL SEE YOU IN A BIT
SEE YA
YOU ARE SO COOL
OUT
I'M OUT
I'M OU

KELLRA TUSKIN
YOU KNOW WHY I'VE COME TO CARREEN
YOU WANT IT BACK
YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE MY SIGIL AND MY POWER
AND YOUR MEMORY, SOLUSANDRA
YES
WELL HERE
No.


ANDRA?
WHAT'S GOING WRONG?
ANDRA!
SHE CAN'T HEAR YOU
SHE PICKED THE WRONG SIGIL BEARER TO STEAL FROM
I LIKE MY POWER AND I DON'T WANT TO GIVE IT BACK
BUT YOU CAN'T- IT'S-!
SHUT UP OR YOU'RE NEXT, LINDY
GNYAAAH!
I DID THIS TO HER THINK OF WHAT I COULD DO TO YOUR HEAD
AFTER ALL, WE'RE JUST HUMAN--
YOU'RE A GOD

I HAPPEN TO HOLD ADVANCED DEGREES IN BOTH DIVINATION AND BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION, SO -UH-
HEY!
NO?
I'LL WIN... IF I LIVE FOREVER.
KELLRA!
DON'T FIGHT HER!
IT'S JUST LIKE A DEAD BATTERY YOU CAN POWER UP AGAIN ONCE WE'RE GONE!
NO!

I'M NOT GIVING IT--
--BACK!
OIL PRESS
ANDRA!
GYNRNRNKWH
ANDRA--
WHAT NOW?
CHAUND

DIENARA AND I HAVE GUIDED YOUR IMAGINATIONS THROUGH THE STAGES OF PREPARATION FOR TRANSITION
AFTER THE TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE, WE WILL BREAK THE BONDS OF THE PHYSICAL FORM, BECOMING ONE WITH THE INFINITE ENERGY OF THE UNIVERSE!
LET US NOW MEDITATE ON THE NECESSARY SEPARATION OF SELF FROM DESIRES UNTIL THE MORNING COMES!
CHAUND AND I HONOR YOU ALL FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND TRUST TOMORROW WILL BE GLORIOUS!
ABANDONING MY WIFE'S PASSION FOR LIFE WILL BE MY GREATEST LOSS, BUT THE BLUNTING OF MY OWN EMPATHY IS A WELCOME CHANGE
YOU NEED NO CHANGES, CHAUND.
WHERE YOU LEAD, I WILL FOLLOW
SOLUSANDRA, I DON'T KNOW WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO INSIGHT, BUT I'M SO *GRATIFIED* YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE *TRANSITION* WITH US
I'D ESPECIALLY ENJOY THE TRANSFORMATION IF...
SOLUSANDRA
I'M *SURPRISED* TO SEE YOU HERE

AFTER OUR CONVERSATION YESTERDAY, AFTER HEARING YOUR DOUBTS--
SOLUSANDRA, YOU'RE JOINING US IN TRANSITION FOR THE WRONG REASONS
DANIK, WHAT MAKES YOU SO CERTAIN YOU KNOW MY MIND?
EXPERIENCE YOUR DECISION IS CLOUDED BY EMOTION
WHAT YOU DESIRE WILL NEVER BE YOURS
I SEE DIFFICULTIES AHEAD IF YOU DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO COMPLETE YOUR MATURITY
AM I SUCH A THREAT TO YOUR PRECIOUS TACTICAL SIGHT?
I CAN'T WAIT, DANIK
TRANSITION IS HAPPENING NOW
YES
PREFERABLY, WITHOUT YOU
YOU'RE JUST LIKE CAPRICIA, DANIK
I'M DIFFERENT I CHALLENGE YOU
YOU'RE BOTH AFRAID I'M UNCONTROLLABLE, AND YOU'RE RIGHT
YOU CAN ADVISE ME ALL YOU LIKE, BUT YOU'LL NEVER CONTROL ME
SOLUSANDRA
THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT THIS
YOU RE ALLOWING YOUR EMOTIONS TO MASTER YOUR REASON
YOU NEED TO PUT EMOTION ASIDE
BE MORE LIKE YOU?
DANIK, OUR EMOTIONS ARE A PART OF US
WE ARE ONLY COMPLETE WITH OUR PASSIONS, NOT DESPITE THEM
PUTTING THEM ASIDE IS A MISTAKE, AND I WANT TO BE THERE WHEN IT ALL BREAKS APART AND PROVES YOU AND DIENARA WRONG

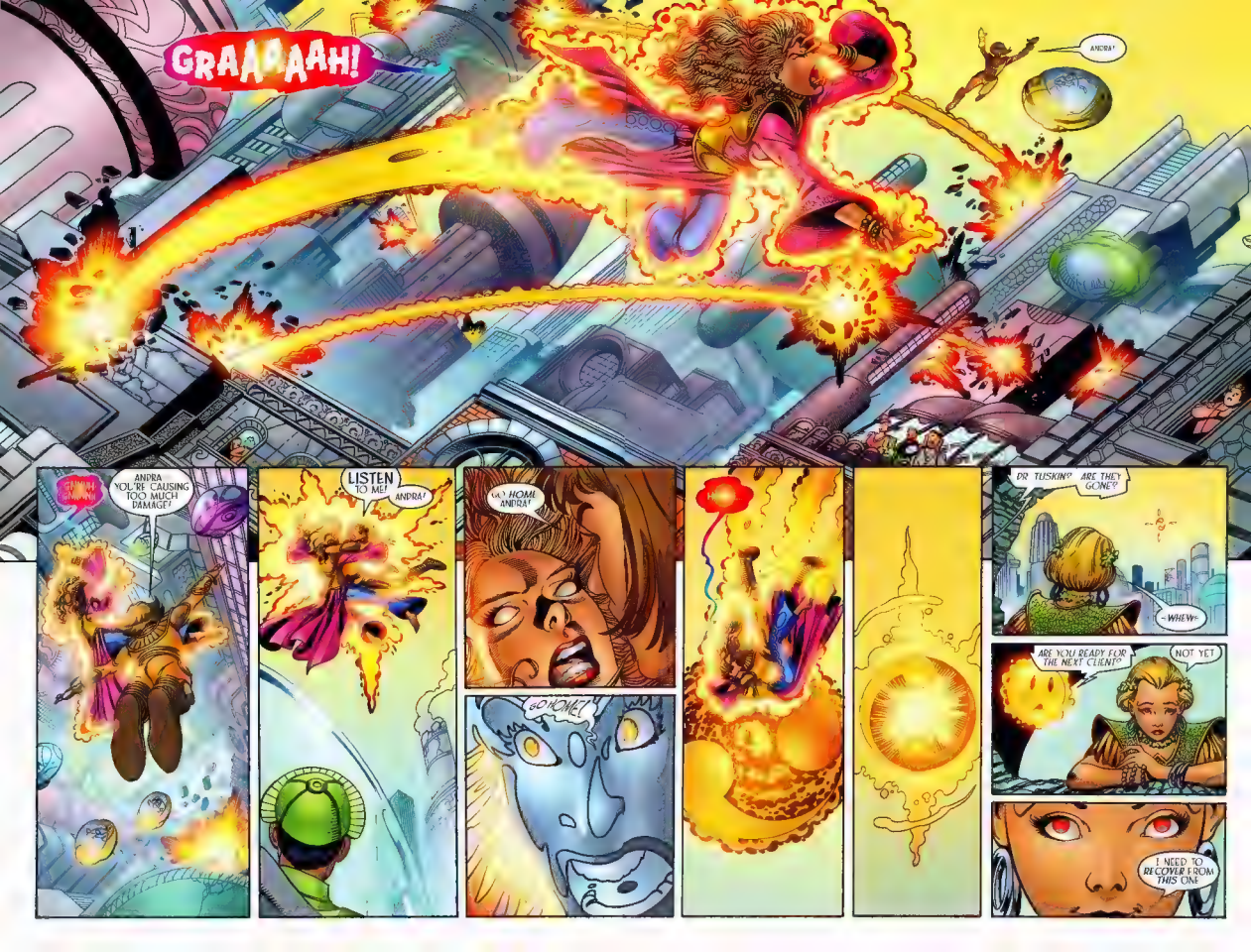
I HAVE BEEN BLIND
NOW THAT WE HAVE JOINED AND SHARED MY INDIVIDUAL OBSERVATIONS--
--THE ONLY POSSIBLE CONCLUSION IS THAT I HAVE BEEN UTTERLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE TRUTH
SOLUSANDRA LIVES
SHE WAS NOT KILLED, BUT SUNDERED--HER INNER RESONANCE CHANGED TO DECEIVE MY SENSES
NORMAL SIGHT MIGHT HAVE OFFERED A CLUE, BUT SO MANY HUMANS LOOK ALIKE
IT IS ONLY THEIR ESSENCE THAT IS UNIQUE, AND SHE MANAGED TO HIDE HERS IN A THOUSAND PLACES
THE VERY WORLD SHE INHABITS IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXTENSION OF HER FRAGMENTED PSYCHE
MY HOUND WAS PROHIBITED FROM ITS CORE BY AS SIMPLE A BARRIER AS RESPECT FOR HER PRIVACY
NOW MY TASK IS TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE
TO DETERMINE IF WE HAVE ANY FURTHER USE FOR WHAT IS LEFT OF THE CREATOR

A TASK WHICH WILL NOT REQUIRE ALL THE PARTS OF MY BEING
SO LET US DISPERSE--
EACH TO OUR OWN WORLD--
AND I WILL MAKE SOLUSANDRA'S EVALUATION MY TASK
SHE IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE PLAN!
SHE SHOULD BE *DESTROYED*, NOT
DON'T BE SO QUICK TO SQUANDER A RESOURCE!
We can work around the trouble she's causing
for *now*
NOW THAT I UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE IS, SHE CAN BE MANAGED
IF NOT-- SHE'S OUT THE AIRLOCK
TRUST ME

I'LL DO THE EVALUATING AND MAKE ANY NECESSARY DECISIONS
I'VE ALREADY DONE HER A DISSERVICE BY SETTING THE HOUND ON HER TRAIL
BUT SHE'S NO LONGER USEFUL UNLESS SHE SURVIVES IT
THIS IS NOT TURNING OUT TO BE A NICE DAY, DR TUSKIN!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?

GNYRRRAH!
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU DO TO HER?
I SUBSTITUTED A FEW RANDOM SUBLIMINALS INITIATING BEHAVIOR CODE FOR HER STANDARD RESPONSE SCRIPT
IN ENGLISH?
I FREED HER MIND FROM ITS USUAL RESPONSE SETS
FREED HER MIND -!
FRIGATE TORQUE SHE DOESN'T HAVE ONE!
I CAN SEE THAT
ANDRA'S GOT A GOD COMPLEX WHEN SHE'S CALM -
SO, CONGRATULATIONS - YOU'VE JUST STARTED YOUR WORLD'S RAGNAROK!

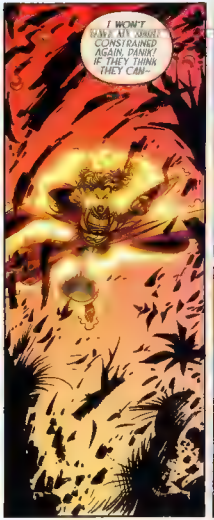
ANDRA JUST HOLD STILL!!
LET US HELP YOUUUU
UYUAH MAKE IT STOP
THAT'S BETTER
SHE LOOKS BETTER
DOESN'T SHE LOOK BETTER?
HOLD ON
I'D SAY NO!
WHAT DO WE DO?
YOU STAY PUT YOU'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO DO AFTERWARDS!
I'VE GOT TO GET HER OUT OF HERE!


GRAAAAAH!
ANDRA!
CRUNCH
ANDRA YOU'RE CAUSING TOO MUCH DAMAGE!
LISTEN TO ME!
ANDRA?
GO HOME ANDRA!
GO HOME!
DR TUSKIN? ARE THEY GONE?
~WHEW~
ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT CLIENT?
NOT YET
I NEED TO RECOVER FROM THIS ONE

GNNNYH!
IF DIENARA WASN'T TWISTING HIS EMOTIONS, CHAUND WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE
AVALON--THE DREAM OF CAMELOT. THE REALITY NEVER MATCHED THE MYTH THEY MADE OF IT, BUT A FEUDAL SYSTEM ALLOWED TO PERSEVERE AFTER THE ADVENT OF TECHNOLOGY

THEY'RE WRONG, DANNY! TRANSITION IS A DEAD END! WE NEED TO CORRECT OUR ERROR! IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GO BACK!
WHY DID YOU MAKE ME REMEMBER? IT'S TOO LATE NOW! THEY'RE HERE! THEY'LL JUST BREAK ME DOWN AGAIN! I HATE YOU!

CHAM! YOU AIN STOP THE MENTA WRONDLAST ANY I AM ANEMA
OKAY, WE'RE BACK ON SOLUS AND YOU'RE STILL OUT OF CONTROL
NOT A PROBLEM. NOW THAT I'M BACK IN ACTION, I'LL JUST PULL ENOUGH POWER TO KEEP YOU FROM PULPING ME
HEY!

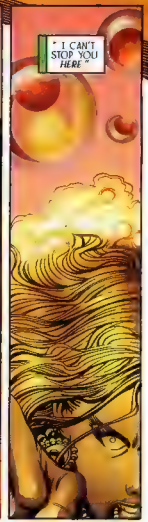

I WON'T HAVE MY SOUL CONSTRAINED AGAIN, DANNY! IF THEY THINK THEY CAN--

BUT I CAN'T-! I CAN'T ACCESS POWER THERE!
AND YOU'RE-!
AND THAT THING'S STILL-!

CHUK! HE'S!

HELLO, ROCK. HELLO, HARD PLACE.

GOODBYE POWER RESERVES
I CAN'T STOP YOU
WAIT--


"I CAN'T STOP YOU HERE"

"SO WE'VE GOT TO GO SOMEPLACE WHERE I CAN"
ANDRA! TOUCH IT!
GNNNNIH!
THE SIGIL! TOUCH IT! LET'S GO!
ANYWHERE NOT HERE IS GOOD! RISKY FOR WHATEVER WORLD WE END UP ON, BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO POWER UP THERE -AND KEEP YOU UNDER
CONTRO
GRRAARGHLL!

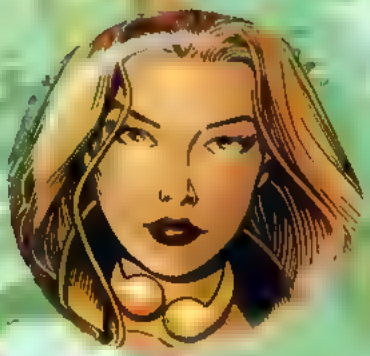
President Chief Executive Officer • Mark Alessi
Senior Vice President Chief Creative Officer • Gina M. Villa
Vice President Writing Development • Barbara Kesel
Director Ancillary Publishing • Ian M. Feller
Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer • Bret Sears
Controller • Brian Saltis
Senior Vice President General Counsel • Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President Product Development • Tony Panaccio
Director of Marketing & Communications • Bill Rosemann
Vice President Sales • Chris Carr
Director of Sales Direct & Foreign Markets • James Breitbeil

Vice President Special Projects • Brandon Peterson
Vice President Art Director • Bart Sears
Assistant Art Directors • Michael Atiyeh, Dave Lanphear, Rick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith
Freelance Coordinator • Michelle Pugliese
Vice President Production • Pam Davies
Production Supervisor Advertising/Web • Sylvia Bretz
Production Supervisor Books • Janet Bechtle
Production Designers • Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin
Production Assistants • Marisol Quintana & Ron Domingo

CrossGen
8
DEC
SOLUS
00811
8 00155 57607 4
USA $2.95
crossgen.com
Barbara Kesel
Leonard Kirk
Andrew Pepoy
Larry Molinar

Her name is

ANDRA RADIANT



...or that's what she thinks.

LINDY

She has great power, a stubborn character, and a missing memory. Once, as Solusandra, she held godlike power, but was pursued by others of her kind. Her power was scattered to many worlds, including the one on which she hid. Her sundered godhood made her appear dead to her fellows, including the being called Danik.

Andra knows only that she has to go to the Sigil-Bearers and take from each one a symbol, her symbol, and the portion of her missing memories held by each one.

DANIK

Danik, unaware that it is his old ally who is causing mayhem among the Sigil-Bearers, has created and set on Andra's trail the Hound.

THE HOUND

One of the Sigil-Bearers, Lindy Karsten, was determined to stay by Andra's side until her stolen sigil powers were returned to her. After a destructive return to empowerment on Elysia, Lindy returned to the world of Solus with Andra, Altwaal's Gauntlet, and a load of guilt, leaving devastation, bodies, and enemies in their wake. When their encounter with planet Cardeen's uncooperative Sigil-Bearer leaves Andra in a state of near-madness and the return to Solus doesn't help, Lindy's solution is to point the crazed Andra toward some unknown destination, which leads them to...

Solus™ Vol. 1, Issue 8, DECEMBER 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **CrossGen®**, **CrossGen Comics®**, **CrossGeneration®**, and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. **Solus™** and all prominent characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

YOU'RE ALL JUST A BUNCH OF *BABIES!*
SIGH-
HERE WE ARE *AGAIN* HOW DID THINGS GET TO THIS POINT?
I DON'T KNOW HOW
ANDRA WAS OUT OF CONTROL WHEN WE ARRIVED ON CIRESS

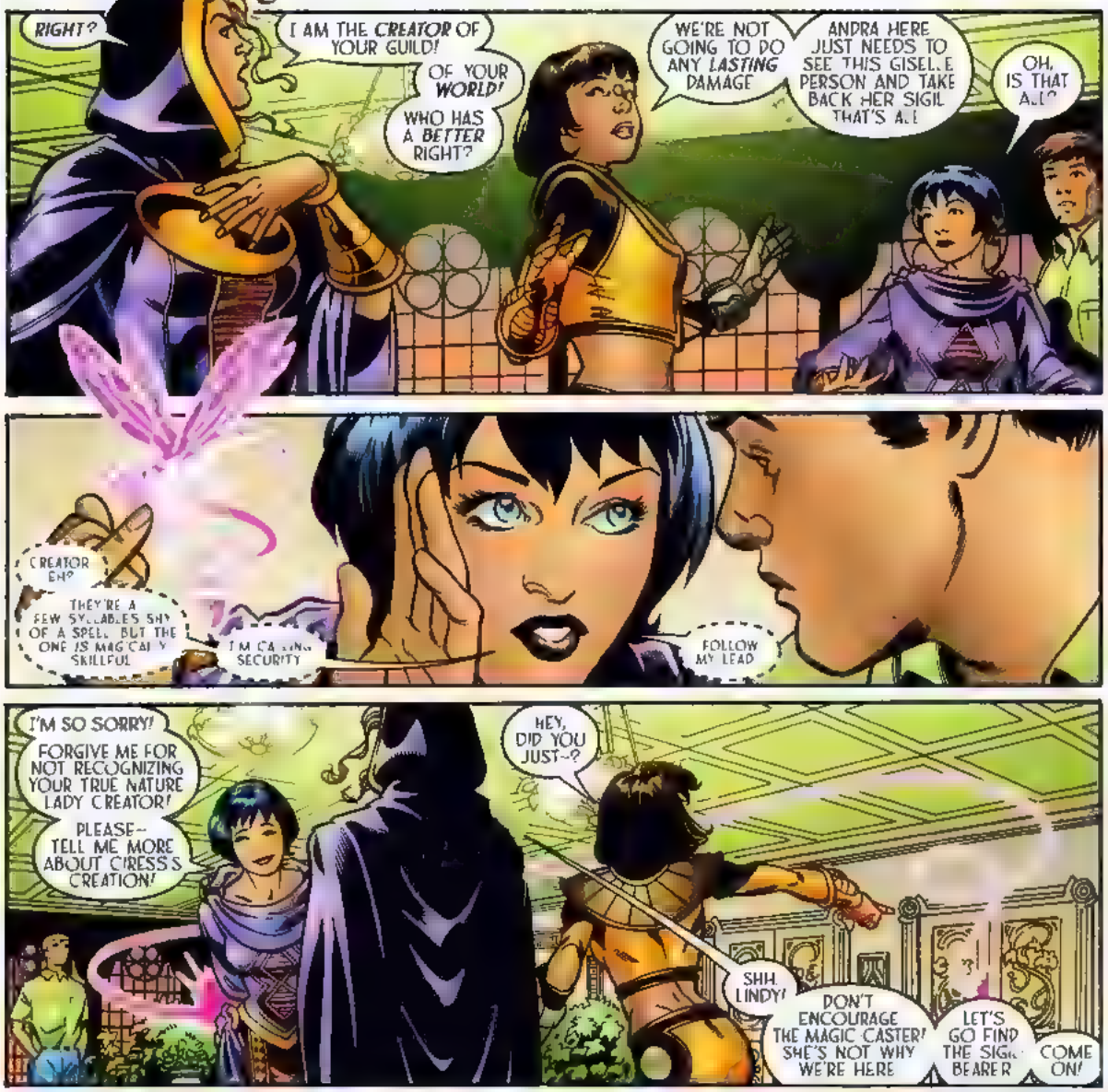
ANDRA, STOP!
STOP FIGHTING ME!
TRY TO GET YOURSELF UNDER CONTROL--
GNNNH!
WHAT DID THAT LITTLE IMP DO TO ME?
GRNNNH!
FINALLY!
WE'RE NOT ON CARDEEN ANYMORE ANDRA!
AND THIS WORLD, WHEREVER WE ARE, HOLDS AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF POWER!
IT'S NEARLY AS STRONG AS THE SOURCE ON ELYSIA!
NOT THAT YOU CARE, BE NO, ENTIRELY INSANE A THE MOMENT
C'MON, ANDRA! WAKE ALL THE WAY UP! EITHER YOU SNAP YOURSELF OUT OF THIS OR I'LL--
OR I'LL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'LL DO
ANDRA?
YOW!
ANDY WHEN DID WE GET TO CIRESS?

YOU?
IN BODY A COUPLE OF MINUTES AGO
IN MIND, JUST NOW
READY TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?
THIS PLACE APPEARS TO BE THE POLITICAL OR MAYBE RELIGIOUS FOCAL POINT
CHANCES ARE GOOD YOUR LOCAL SIGIL BEARER'S INSIDE
AND ANDRA--?
KEEP YOUR MENTAL DEFENSES UP THIS TIME, WILL YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU OBJECTED TO MY GATHERING UP THE SIGILS

NOT SO MUCH NOW THAT I KNOW THE GENETIC CHANGE IT REPRESENTS REMAINS
YOU'VE GOT A RIGHT TO YOUR OWN MEMORIES.
FROM WHAT I CAN DEDUCE THROUGH OUR SHORT FLY-BY, THIS WORLD'S CULTURE IS BASED ON ENERGY MANIPULATION THROUGH RITUALISTIC GESTURE
MAGIC
SO, SHOULD WE ANNOUNCE OURSELVES TO TELL THEM WE RE

HERE--?

OKAY, SO WE'LL BARGE RIGHT IN
OHMI!
WHAT IN -?
STAY BACK, THIERRY!
Nita
INTRUDER?
WITHOUT ME, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE!
MY SPELL!
HOW -? WHO ARE YOU?
SHE'S NOT THE SIGIL BEARER
WE'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE ALTHOUGH THE SIGIL BEARER DOES COME TO THIS CATHEDRAL FREQUENTLY
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS WITH GISELLE?
AND WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO WEAR THE ROBES OF THE NOUVEAU GUILD?


RIGHT?
I AM THE CREATOR OF YOUR GUILD!
OF YOUR WORLD!
WHO HAS A BETTER RIGHT?
WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANY LASTING DAMAGE
ANDRA HERE JUST NEEDS TO SEE THIS GISELLE PERSON AND TAKE BACK HER SIGIL THAT'S ALL
OH, IS THAT ALL?
CREATOR EH?
THEY'RE A FEW SYLLABLES SHY OF A SPELL BUT THE ONE IS MAGICALLY SKILLFUL
I'M CALLING SECURITY
FOLLOW MY LEAD
I'M SO SORRY!
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT RECOGNIZING YOUR TRUE NATURE LADY CREATOR!
PLEASE-- TELL ME MORE ABOUT CIRESS'S CREATION!
HEY, DID YOU JUST~?
SHH, LINDY!
DON'T ENCOURAGE THE MAGIC CASTER! SHE'S NOT WHY WE'RE HERE
LET'S GO FIND THE SIGIL BEARER
COME ON!
HALT!

YOU MUST BE JOKING
NO NO NO NO NO!
BACK OFF NOW!
YOU'LL ONLY--!
ZING
ZING
WHY DON'T PEOPLE EVER LISTEN?
YOU'RE NOT SOLDIERS--

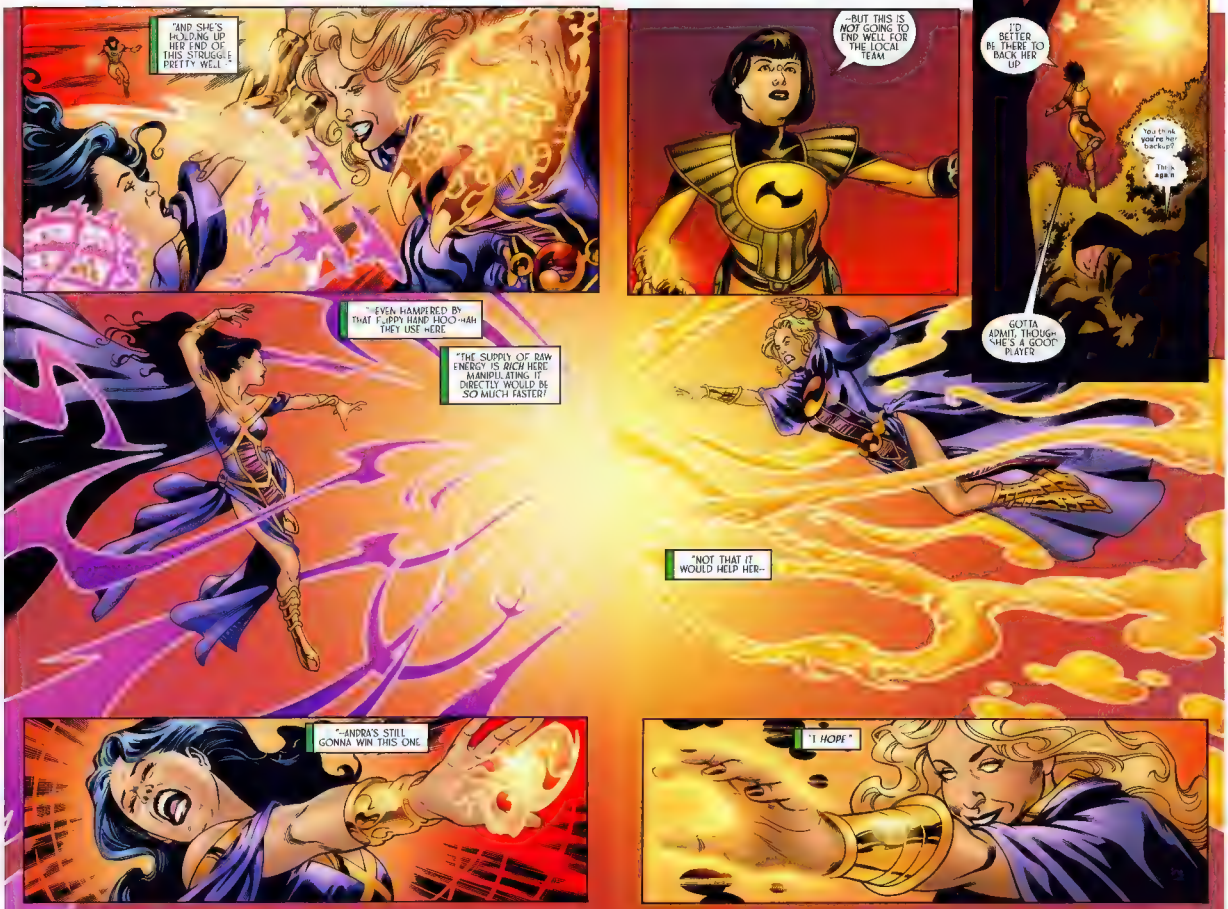
YOU'RE ALL JUST A BUNCH OF BABIES!
AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHERE YOU CAME IN
IT GETS BETTER OR WORSE
WITH ANDRA IT'S SOMETIMES HARD TO FIGURE OUT WHICH IT IS

SEE? BABIES ON THE INSIDE AND THE OUTSIDE
BUT--?
NO BUTS! I'VE GOT A SIGIL-BEARER TO FIND!
HURRY UP!
N A MINUTE
ANDRAS... NOT VERY PATIENT BUT THERE'S NO LASTING HARM DONE. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EXPEND A LOT OF ENERGY TO FIX THIS BUT--
WHO ARE YOU?
INDY KARSTEN. FORMER SIGIL-BEARER, JUST LIKE YOUR GISELLE.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU IS THAT YOU'RE ADDING AN UNNECESSARY COMPLEXITY TO THE ENERGY MANIPULATION PHASE--
--AND IT IS INTERESTING THAT SO MANY OF YOU HAVE FOUND A WAY TO USE THE UNIVERSAL ENERGIES --BUT THE RITUALISTIC GESTURES YOU EMPLOY WASTE--
RITUALISTIC GESTURES? LIKE THIS?
WHOOSH
YES! IF YOU'D JUST

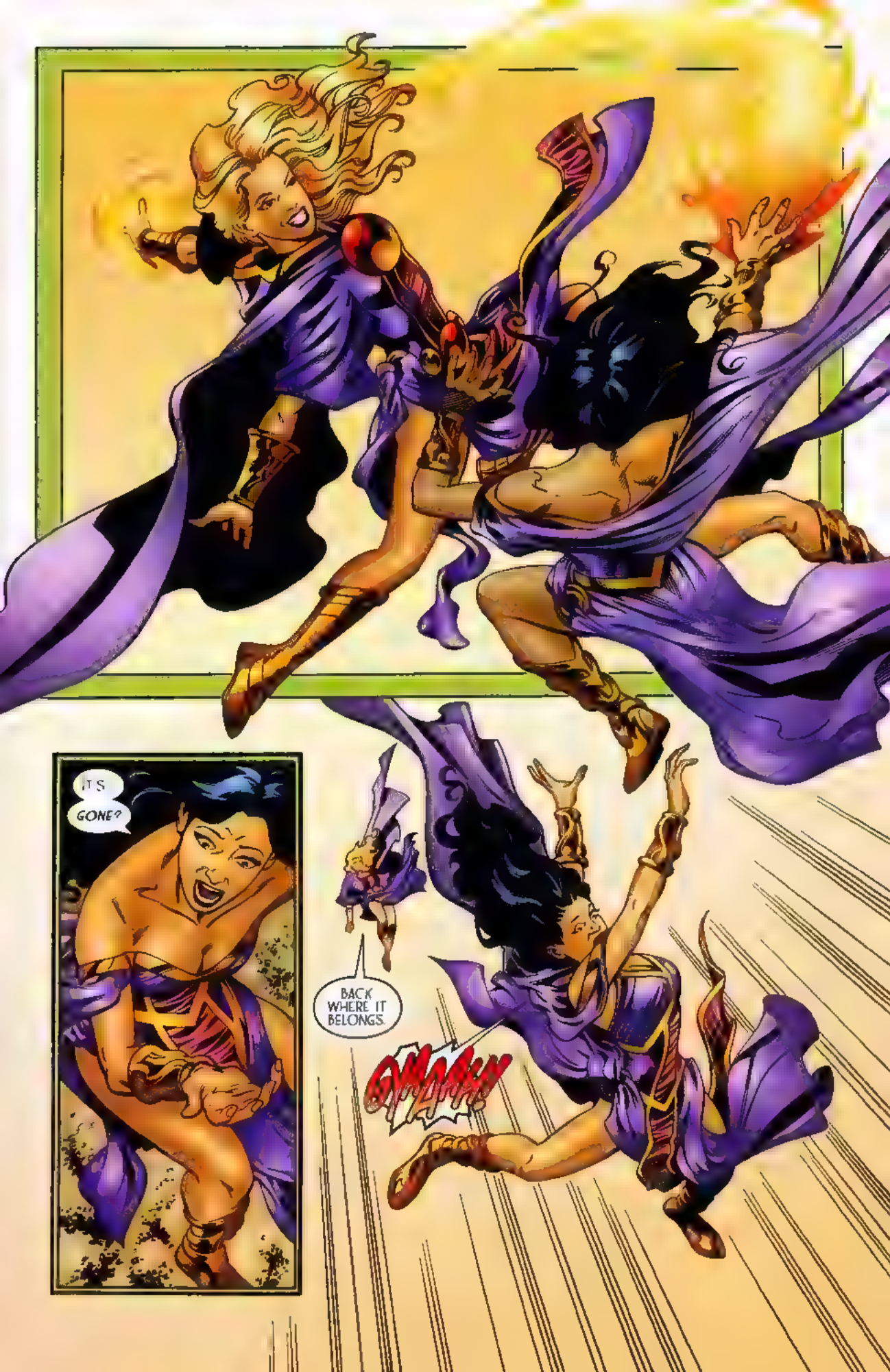
ACCESS
OW!
OH, NO
FRIGATE TORQUE ANDRA WILL NEVER
HEY
HEY!
I'M A SIGIL-BEARER!
OKAY, MINUS THE SIGIL. I NEED A NEW CHARACTER CLASSIFICATION FOR THIS SCENARIO
AND WHO NEEDS ANDRA!

LIKE I CAN'T GUESS
THIS PICK-UP-THE PIECES SCOOPER JOB IS GETTING OLD
BUT WHAT CHOICE HAVE I GOT?
SHE NEEDS A KEEPER!
THAT'S GOT TO BE HER PLEASE LET HER HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM CARDEEN--

" BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO GET INTO THE MIDDLE OF THAT!
"GISELLE, I PRESUME"


"AND SHE'S HOLDING UP HER END OF THIS STRUGGLE PRETTY WELL."
--BUT THIS IS NOT GOING TO END WELL FOR THE LOCAL TEAM.
I'D BETTER BE THERE TO BACK HER UP.
You think you're her backup?
Think again.
GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH--SHE'S A GOOD PLAYER.
"--EVEN HAMPERED BY THAT FLIPPY HAND HOO-HAH THEY USE HERE.
"THE SUPPLY OF RAW ENERGY IS RICH HERE. MANIPULATING IT DIRECTLY WOULD BE SO MUCH FASTER!
"NOT THAT IT WOULD HELP HER--
"--ANDRA'S STILL GONNA WIN THIS ONE.
"I HOPE."

PLEASE LET HER NOT BE A MIND-READER
PLEASE LET HER NOT BE A MIND READER
PLEASE LET HER NOT BE A MIND READER
–MY SIGIL!
AAAH!
"PLEASE?"
NOW LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
AH AH DON'T SPOIL THE MOMENT


IT'S GONE?
BACK WHERE IT BELONGS.
OMMPH!

OKAY SO ANDRA SEEMS TO HAVE COME THROUGH OKAY -
WHICH MEANS OUR CHANCES FOR GOING HOME OOK GOOD
BUT SHE DOESN'T LOOK GOOD--
FOR A CREATOR, ANDRA'S PRETTY HARD ON HER TOYS
Giselle!
There! You've got what you came for!
Now get the hex out of here and leave us alone!

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

FRIGATE
IS THIS MY LIFE? I DIDN'T REALLY STUDY INFORMATION HEIRARCHY, SILICA MANIPULATION, AND GAME THEORY JUST SO I COULD BAIL A PSYCHOTIC GOD OUT OF THE MESSES SHE GETS HERSELF INTO, DID I?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST ORANGE-EYED BALL OF FUR THAT TRIED TO GET IN MY WAY?
N-now, wait a minute
HEY!
ANDRA, NO!

WE DON'T NEED ANY DEATH HERE! THE TALKING SQUIRREL'S JUST TRYING TO PROTECT HIS MISTRESS. HE THINKS YOU HURT HER, AND
AND
AND ANDRA, LOOK! HE'S A TALKING SQUIRREL!
HE'S REALLY CUTE! ISN'T HE REALLY CUTE?
AWW LOOK ISN'T HE CUTE? HE REMINDS ME OF INFOE!
INFOE?
MY OWN LITTLE ANIMAL FRIEND OF COURSE, HE'S THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF AN ALIEN SPECIES. NOT AN ANIMAL BUT HE TALKS

YOU'VE GOT A SKITTER? AW *HOW SWEET* IS THIS INFOE OF YOURS *HOUSEBROKEN?*
HEY !
THERE'S A SIGIL ON YOUR SUIT, TOO! SKITTER, WHAT IN THE FOUR MOONS IS GOING ON HERE?
NOTHING
LET'S GO, LINDY I HAVE WHAT I CAME FOR
WHEW
DODGED *THAT* BULLET *YOU* SEEM NORMAL AGAIN, NOBODY DIED
YOU! I AM *SO* SICK OF THIS!
ME?
NO–

...HIM!
GO AWAY!

GNNNNNNH!

I HAVE A NAME

DO YOU REMEMBER IT?
YOU'RE DANIK
AND YOU ARE WHAT'S LEFT OF SOLUSANDRA
YES, THE PART THAT REMEMBERS AND LOATHES, HOW CONDESCENDING YOU CAN BE
BUT COME ON DOWN--I BELIEVE WE HAVE A WAR TO DISCUSS
OKAY, DOG'S GONE, SOME STRANGE GUY'S ENTERED THE PICTURE
SOLUSANDRA?
SHE'S BOTH?
SOLUSANDRA, S IT?
PLEASE TELL ME HE KNOWS WHO HE IS
INDY, THIS IS DANIK

YOUR HAVEN THE SELF REDUCED TO SIMPLICITY
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
DANIK?
I...IT SEEMS LIKE I KNOW YOU, BUT--?
BUT AS AN ADORABLE PET LINDY
HEY! INFOE WAS MY ALLY!
YOU WOULD SEE IT THAT WAY I ASSESSED THAT AN UNINTIMIDATING AVATAR WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO REASON WITH YOU
HOW DARE
LINDY--?
SHUTTING UP
DANIK
TELL ME--
WHAT-- WHAT AM I MISSING?

TRANSITION
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN OUR *ASCENSION*
WE WERE BLISS.
YOU TROUBLED THAT CONTENTMENT
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO KNEW WE WERE NOT IN THE STATE OF PERFECTION WE IMAGINED YOU ALONE SENSED WE WERE NOT FULLY TRANSFORMED, BUT MORIBUND, FADING AWAY YOU WERE A THREAT TO OUR SHARED LIE
SO WE CORRUPTED YOU TO PROTECT OUR NIRVANA
I COULD NOT SEE THE TRUTH AT FIRST MY EGO HID THE EVIDENCE FROM MY TACTICAL SIGHT
I WAS BELIEVED STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST YOUR INFLUENCE, SO I WAS ASSIGNED TO BE YOUR KEEPER
CHILDLIKE YOU WERE GIVEN A SMALL PORTION OF THE UNIVERSE TO PLAY CREATOR AS I WATCHED I REALIZED THE TRUTH YOU WERE RIGHT WE WERE WRONG
SO I SUGGESTED A GAME TO YOU, ONE THAT WOULD CREATE THE ONLY FORCE STRONG ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE OUR FELLOWS *OTHERS* WHO COULD ASCEND TO OUR PLANE THE *SIGIL-BEARERS*
BUT *YOU* AWAKENED, AND *THEY* REALIZED THAT IT WAS HAPPENING. THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE EVERYTHING WAS TO *RELEASE* YOU
REMEMBER.
REMEMBER

THEY WANTED YOU DESTROYED, BUT IN YOUR ANGER, *YOU*, THE ANOMALY, BROKE THROUGH A BARRIER *WE* COULDN'T EVEN COMPREHEND...
...YOU TOUCHED SOMETHING I NOW KNOW AS THE NEGATION.
WE'D LEECHED YOUR POWER, BUT YOU STOLE BACK EVERYTHING WE'D TAKEN AND MORE BEFORE IT WAS ALSO, SOMEHOW, STOLEN FROM YOU BY SOME FORCE ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE.
THE COMBINATION OF INCOMPATIBLE ENERGIES WAS POTENT...
...DESTRUCTIVE...
...DEADLY.
AFTER *THESE* DEATHS, THERE WAS NO SAVING YOU...
...EXCEPT THE WAY YOU SAVED YOURSELF, BY BREAKING APART.

THERE IS NO MORE TIME FOR ME TO DO ANY MORE THAN I HAVE DONE FOR YOU, SOLUSANDRA.
WE ARE NOW THE LAST OF OUR KIND.
THE NEGATION GROWS STRONGER. IF OUR FORCES CANNOT STOP IT, OUR UNIVERSE WILL BE CONSUMED.
I REGRET THAT I MUST LEAVE YOU TO YOUR OWN RECONSTRUCTION--
--BUT IF YOU CANNOT COMPLETE THE TASK WITH YOUR MEMORIES RESTORED--
--YOU ARE USELESS TO ME.
NEGATION.
THE WAR.
THEN IT IS COMING...
AND I MUST GO.
TAKE ME WITH YOU! I CAN HELP!
NO!
LINDY-- THIS IS OUR WAR!
YES, AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN--
NO!
MY WAR!
YOU GOT CAUGHT UP IN ALL OF THIS BECAUSE OF MY ERROR! YOU'VE SUFFERED ENOUGH BECAUSE OF ME!
BUT WE'RE ALL--
WE ARE NOT EQUALS, LINDY.
FRIGATE TORQUE. DON'T DO THIS, ANDRA...
...DON'T SEND ME HOME.
SOLUSANDRA.
I AM A GOD!
"YOU ARE RADIANT--"

--BUT I AM THE CREATOR!
SOLUSANDRA!
THE ONE ALONE!
THE ONE WHO MUST ATONE FOR THE SHAME OF A THOUSAND ATLANTEANS WHO CHOSE THE WRONG PATH!
THIS IS MY WAR, AND I WILL SEE IT WON!

Storytellers

Barbara
KESEL
Writer

Leonard
KIRK
Guest Penciler

Andrew
PEPOY
with Jennifer Cross
Guest Inkers

Larry
MOLINAR
Colorist

Dave
LANPHEAR
Letterer

Solus, so long!

*It's the last issue **already**? What happens **next**? Solusandra, now "fixed" but still so very herself, has a war to... interfere with. In fact, it's The War, coming your way next spring in the pages of NEGATION: WAR! Lindy's back home, but isn't likely to stay put once the action starts... Danik's still Danik, out causing trouble with the best of intentions and the worst possible style.*

*Andra and Lindy's adventures have been brought to you by some of my favorite artists ever. Leonard Kirk and Andrew Pepoy and Jennisfer Cross did amazing service on this issue, Paul Ryan, Brad Vancata, Eric Guerrero, Laura Villari, and Caesar Rodriguez took on a monster reference job with a smile, and of course, the amazing **George Pérez** led the way, aided and abetted by the ever-cool **Rick Magyar** and the Mild-Mannered-Master **Larry Molinar**. Thanks, guys!*

And thank you, readers, for sharing our adventures!

--Barbara Kesel

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

President & Chief Executive Officer · **Mark Alessi**
Vice President of Sales · **Chris Oarr**
Director of Sales, Book Trade · **Robert Boyd**
Director of Sales, Foreign & Direct Market · **James Breitbeil**
Vice President of Education · **Beth Widera**
Director of Creative Development · **Barbara Kesel**
Senior Vice President, Legal Counsel · **Jennifer Hernandez**
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer · **Bret Sears**
Vice President of Information Technology · **Courtland Whited**
Network Administrator · **Michael Creed**
Web Master · **Marshall Jessee**

Vice President of Conventions & Facilities · **John Smith**
Office Manager · **Shirley Burdett**
Senior Vice President of Publishing · **Bill Rosemann**
Managing Editor · **Ian M. Feller**
Director of Scheduling · **Charlie Decker**
Art Directors · **Rick Magyar, Mark Pennington, Laura Martin, Dave Lanphear**
Senior Vice President, Creative Services · **Pam Davies**
Manager of Book Production · **Janet Bechtle**
Manager of Advertising Production · **Sylvia Bretz**
Creative Services Designer · **Randy Martin**